Hafa Adai!

'The Crank' battles COVID-19. PAGE 28

5 schools OK'd for face-to-face instruction. PAGE 4

Volume XXX, Issue No. 181
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

Saipan Tribune

SCHOOL ID DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES
A team of Hopwood Middle School staff and personnel are seen handing out student IDs and learning packets as well as additional documents such as MOUs and Device Agreements, to a line of parents who remain in their cars to practice social distancing. The 6th and 7th grade IDs were issued yesterday morning, while the 8th grade IDs were issued in the afternoon. NEIL FAMA

Guam sees another COVID-19 death

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam saw its 21st COVID-19-related fatality for the fifth day in a row yesterday, after a 74-year-old woman succumbed at the Guam Memorial Hospital.

According to a Joint Information Center statement, the woman was admitted to the Guam Memorial Hospital last Aug. 25, and that she had underlying health conditions that were enhanced by COVID-19. She was pronounced dead at approximately 12:07am.

See GUAM on Page 4

Body of man who died en route to Guam is sent to Saipan

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lack of a medical examiner in Guam following the retirement of Dr. Aurelio Espinola prompted the U.S. territory to send to Saipan for an autopsy the body of a person who was found lifeless aboard a Matson vessel that was on its way to Guam.

A source told *Saipan Tribune* that a crew member of Saipan Shipping passed away in his sleep as the Matson ship was on its way to Guam from Palau. However, since there are no medical examiners in Guam, the body was shipped to Saipan for examination yesterday.

The body is right now at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. morgue.

According to *Saipan Tri-*

See MAN on Page 4

In a year of social distancing, virus alters Sept. 11, too

By JENNIFER PELTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—In a year when the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped countless American rituals, even the commemoration of 9/11 could not escape unchanged.

The 19th anniversary of the terror attacks will be marked by dueling ceremonies at the Sept. 11 memorial plaza and a corner near the World Trade Center, reflecting a divide over the memorial's decision to suspend a cherished tradition of relatives reading victims' names in person. Vice President Mike Pence is expected at both those remembrances in New York, while President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden plan to attend a truncated ceremony at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

In New York, the double

See YEAR on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Sept. 10, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	1,758	45	1,803
Recovered	951	91	1,042
Active	651	45	696
Deaths	20	1	21
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		42,251	

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	59	0	59
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested		14,375*	

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted to not report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
Red: Least safe
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

WITH SEPT. 30 DEADLINE LOOMING

Employers want more time to petition CW workers

With a Sept. 30 deadline looming, employers of Filipino foreign workers in the CNMI have sought the assistance of the Philippine Honorary Consulate to the CNMI to appeal to the U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on their behalf and the thousands of CW-1 workers who are at risk of losing their legal immigration status by the end of this month.

See CW on Page 4

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago, seated right, and the office's legal consultant, Ariel Mariano, standing center with his back to the camera, meet Wednesday with 15 business-employers with CW-1 foreign workers at the Minachom Atdao pavilion. PHILHONCON

INSIDE

BUSINESS
PHI Pharmacy has opened a new branch in Garapan across the Kristo Rai Church.
PAGE 17

NATION
Wildfires burned in Oregon's forested valleys and along the coast, causing mass evacuations.
PAGE 18

WORLD
The British government imposes a series of coronavirus restrictions measures Wednesday.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

'Medicaid funding issue did not arise during House budget talks

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) said yesterday that they were not made aware of the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency's funding concerns, which is why the issue never came up during their deliberation on the fiscal year 2021 budget bill.

When asked for comments about Medicaid's concerns, Blanco said they worked off of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' budget proposal. "Had we received the Medicaid letter during Ways and Means deliberation, we would have addressed the issue," he added.

Commonwealth Medicaid Agency director Helen C. Sablan reported a 32.7% increase in Medicaid beneficiaries in a six-month period from February to July 10, 2020, even as she expressed fear that the CNMI may lose millions of dollars in health care funding if the government fails to adequately fund the program.

In a letter dated Aug. 25, 2020, Sablan informed Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) that they have been working hard to ensure that the program complies with the requirements of Title IX and meets the expectations of the U.S. Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Sablan said that the House proposed budget for the agency for fiscal year 2021 would result in a shortfall of $6.21 million, which would jeopardize the CNMI's ability to receive millions of dollars in health care funding. She added that they do not believe that it is in the interest of the CNMI to lose such funding at a time when federal expenditures are one of the few sources of economic input.

Blanco said the House passed the fiscal year 2021 budget, which includes funding for Medicaid, as proposed by the Torres administration. "As the budget is still in the review process, we anticipate to work with Medicaid on its concerns as indicated in its letter," Blanco said.

During Tuesday's House session, Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) requested House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao and Blanco to call the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency so they can address their concerns.

Rep. Tina Sablan said they did discuss those concerns with the Ways and Means last week as the latter deliberated on the budget bill for 2021. In her letter, Helen Sablan raised concerns about the CNMI being at risk of losing out on millions of Medicaid funds if the Legislature does do not identify additional CNMI funding to cover the administrative costs and the costs associated with developing fraud detection and prevention system.

Rep. Tina Sablan said it would be helpful for Attao and Blanco to just follow up on that by bringing in Medicaid for House members to questions. "It does appear that this may have been an oversight in the House, the governor's part as well, but also as we deliberated on the House version," she said.

The lawmaker said is it important to hear Medicaid so that they at the House are prepared and ready when the Senate does get to the House their budget version. "We should be sure that we take care of Medicaid," Rep. Tina Sablan said.

Attao said they're working on a bill with House Health Committee chair Jose I. Itibus (R-Saipan) on specific legislation in regards to Medicaid. Attao asked Itibus to follow up on that legislation.

Helen Sablan noted in her letter that there has been a substantial increase in the number of Medicaid beneficiaries due to the furloughs and layoffs, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. She said the requested funding is required to make reasonable and appropriate progress to administer the program and submit data and reports to the federal government.

Rep. Tina Sablan said the proposed House budget provides a total of $2.52 million for the Medical Assistance Program and Enhanced Allotment Plan of Medicaid, and

See MEDICAID on Page 4

STAY CONNECTED AND STAY SAFE!
Express Financial is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs. Helping you succeed financially and safely is our top priority.
Visit myexpressfinancial.com to apply for a loan, make a payment or to learn more about us!
EXPRESS FINANCIAL
DEDEDO
Calvo Commercial Center, 600 Harmon Loop Road Ste 107 | Tel #: (671) 637-9834
SAIPAN
Town House Shopping Center Beach Road Chalan Kanoa | Tel #: (670)-235-6032
Go Online: myexpressfinancial.com

SAFETY
Starts with "S"
but begins with "You"
a friendly reminder from
LP GAS
WUSHIN
Since1983
Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

a boutique for
Tween Girls
ages 8-12
Dresses, Tees, skirts, jeans, shorts, and Accessories!
Girl Talk
FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Swirls
Monday - Thursday: 10am to 4pm
Friday - Saturday: 10am to 5pm
Closed on Sunday
TEL. 233-8050
Like us on Facebook

Administration remits $1.73M in retro payment to retirees

The Torres-Palacios administration has transferred $1.73 million to the NMI Settlement Fund for the retroactive payment of the retirees' 25% pension benefits.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they remitted Wednesday $1,735,837 to the Settlement Fund for the pay period of April 15, April 30, and May 15, 2020. He said the Settlement Fund will process the payment for the retirees next week. He said the money came from the government's general fund.

Atalig said this remittance was at the urging of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Victor Hocog for him to ensure the retirees are paid as soon as possible.

Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said the money will retroactively pay retirees whose pensions were reduced by 25% for three consecutive pension periods. She said the request for retroactive payments have been followed up several times by both Hocog and Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Senate members.

While the CNMI government is not required to pay the 25% benefit payments under the Betty Johnson class action settlement deal, it has voluntarily made payments to the retirees. The Johnson's settlement agreement required the government to pay 75% of the retirees' pension benefits. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

7th Women's Summit on Sept. 24

The 7th Annual Women's Summit will take place on Sept. 24, 2020, from 8am to 5pm. The summit is co-sponsored by the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office under the Governor's Office, in collaboration with community partners from both the public and private sectors. This year's theme is "Continuing to Rise: Women Leading Sustainable Development." Organizers have enlisted panelists from the community to speak about various topics of relevance to sustainable development.

This virtual summit is part of our 2020 CNMI Women's Month Celebration, which was held in March 2020. It was originally scheduled for March 27, 2020; however, it had to be postponed because of the pandemic.

The panel discussions planned for this year will focus on Disaster Recovery, Economic Growth and Development, Health, and Military Buildup. Through these presentations and discussions, we hope for a better understanding of how the CNMI's women are leading sustainable development on our islands across the various sectors. Furthermore, through the sharing of knowledge in this summit, organizers hope to impart information that would benefit our rising female leaders on how they too can lead the sustainable development of our island nation successfully.

To register for the summit, click on the link: https://forms.gle/4JDR3g6isym9g6FHA.

Should you have any questions, call 233-8978/9411 or email cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Senate finalizing budget bill version

Senate vice president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said yesterday they are now moving forward in finalizing the Senate version of the budget bill for fiscal year 2021.

Hofschneider, who chairs the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, also disclosed that they are looking at other ways to fund some, if not most, of the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency's funding request, from both direct appropriation and providing provisions to be included in the budget bill for consideration.

"We hope to be able to fund the entire $8 million request and that is the task before the committee," he said.

Commonwealth Medicaid Agency director Helen C. Sablan wrote Hofschneider on Aug. 25, 2020, expressing fears that the CNMI may lose millions of dollars in health care funding if the government fails to adequately fund the program.

During his committee's hearing on Tinian last Tuesday, Hofschneider said they heard the mayors' and their agencies' budget request for fiscal year 2021. He said the committee sought information and clarification as to their needs based on the current year's operation (including impacts of a 48% cut) plus what they hope to receive given the significant decrease on the overall projection for fiscal year 2021.

The senator said that Office of Management and Budget representative Cheree Palacios apprised the committee about certain full-time employees in certain departments who qualify for cost-sharing of FTE's fiscal needs for this budget year and into the entire fiscal year 2021.

"Overall, the hearing went well," he said.

Last Aug. 13, the House passed House Bill 21-124, or the Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2021. The total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2021 is $144.41 million, subject to adjustments bringing it down to $87.21 million. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

Senatorial bets on radio talk show

The *Marianas Agupa* radio talk show will be inviting senatorial candidates to appear on live Marinas Agupa Facebook Live starting this Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, from 10:15am to 10:45am.

1. Sept. 12, 2020: Sen. Sixto Igisomar and Edith Deleon Guerrero
2. Sept. 19, 2020: Jose P. Cruz and Karl K. Nabors
3. Sept. 26, 2020: Dennis C. Mendiola and Sen. Paul A. Manglona

Invitation links will be sent out as soon as the candidates' emails are confirmed.

Listeners may tune in via *Marianas Agupa Talkshow* Facebook or listen live on Magic 100.3 FM starting at 9am. ***(PR)***

Sandwich, Famous Fries, Famous Drink
Famous Sauce
FAMOUS CELEBRITY MEAL OF
TRAVIS SCOTT
Famous meal is a celebrity tray
can be ordered from our menu
in the restaurant,
DT or in the APP on
September 8-21.
Sprite
tangy BBQ
STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:00AM TO 10:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:00AM TO 12 MIDNIGHT DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

5 schools OK'd for face-to-face instruction

Five more schools have been cleared to resume face-to-face classes by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental Health.

BEH has inspected Isla Montessori, Eucon School, Mount Carmel School, and Seventh-Day Adventist School and they all passed the compliance requirements for social distancing and sanitation

In August, BEH assessed and approved the Northern Marianas College, Saipan International School, Saipan Community School, Grace Christian Academy, and Brilliant Star Montessori to reopen for in-person instruction. Since then, BEH said that these schools have adjusted and put more additional measures to be sure that there's safety in the classroom.

At Mount Carmel School, they have implemented the 6-foot distance and have put up plexiglass in each desk. BEH also confirmed that some private schools have also done the same and also installed UV disinfections. BEH will inspect two more private schools.

BEH is currently waiting on the Public School System's call and to submit their plans for reopening their schools for face-to-face classes. On the first week of the PSS school year last Tuesday, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada inspected schools to ensure that they are following the task force's protocols for face-to-face classes. In an interview with Ada, he said that all principals and teachers are working together in preparing the schools and the classrooms for inspection.

"Inspection is our guiding force. All our school staff are working to be compliant with the government's COVID-19 safety regulations. We don't want to be denied our opening, even for some selected students that need additional support through face-to-face instruction," said Ada,

He said they are scheduled for inspection this September. Even if schools are encouraged to facilitate distance/online learning, the amended government emergency directives state that all public and private schools are allowed to resume in-person instruction and activities—subject to the review and approval of operation plans and site assessments by the task force, Community Healthcare Corp. and the Department of Public Works. ***(Justine Nauta)***

YEAR

From Page 1

beams of light that evoke the fallen twin towers were nearly canceled in the name of virus safety, until an uproar sparked a change of heart. The Fire Department has cited the virus in urging members to stay away from any observances of the 2001 attacks that killed nearly the 3,000 people, among them almost 350 firefighters.

Some victims' relatives say they understand the ground zero observance had to change in a year when so much else has. Others fear the pandemic is making plain what they have feared was happening unspoken: that the commitment to "Never Forget" is fading.

"It's another smack in the face," says Jim Riches, who lost his son Jimmy, a firefighter.

The father is staying home on the anniversary for the first time this year because he doesn't want to take chances with the coronavirus after a prior illness. But he feels others should have the option of reciting the names of the dead on the memorial plaza, instead of listening to a recording.

Memorial leaders said they wanted to avoid close contact among readers, who are usually paired at the podium. But to Riches, a retired fire battalion chief and frequent critic of the memorial organization, the decision sounds like an excuse for sidelining the families' role in commemorating 9/11.

"I wish they wouldn't forget, but they're trying to," he says.

But Anthoula Katsimatides sees the differences this year as an effort to ensure victims' relatives feel comfortable attending—including her mother, who hasn't left home since March because health issues make her especially worried about the virus. But she is determined to go in honor of her son John, a bond trader, her daughter said.

CW

From Page 1

There are only 18 days left from today to meet the Sept. 30 deadline in filing of immigration petitions for all CNMI-based CW-1 workers that will allow them to retain their immigration statuses. If no extension is granted, many will lose their legal status and there is a possibility of a mass exit of foreign workers. Employers fear that this will also result in further disruption of business operation that are already reeling from the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last Wednesday, Sept. 9, about 18 employers met with Philippine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago, to urge the Philippine consulate's intervention in reaching out to both USDOL and USCIS. In particular, the employers are asking for an extension to the filing period of CW-1 petitions that will allow for the CW-1 workers to remain legally in the CNMI.

"I have to admit it that we are faced with an impending workforce crisis. My meeting with several of our employers with CW-1 workers just gave us the true picture of their struggles and challenges in meeting the federal immigration guidelines," Arago said. "Time is not on their side right now. They do not have any other remedy in sight, except…for our federal agency partners, which is the USDOL and USCIS, to hear their plight and grant them a reprieve by way of time extension."

The 18 employers that met with Arago and his team last Wednesday represented over 300 foreign workers who are CW-1 visa holders. These employers are engaged in various business operation, ranging from food and restaurant, manpower, and remittance, to transportation, rentals, and printing operations, and educational institutions.

Concerns

The employers are also concerned by the delay in the response time, processing, and other critical administrative requirements and procedures mandated by USDOL and USCIS.

They reported that, starting July, the prevailing wage determination issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Foreign Labor Certification are all tailored to Guam's wage rates. The CNMI wage survey report remains uncertified by U.S. Labor as of today.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation, limiting the government's business operations. It resulted in considerable delays in processing the Temporary Employment Certifications and Form ETA-9142C with the OFLC, from the issuance of the Notice of Acceptance for the employers to start online posting of job vacancy announcement with the CNMI Department of Labor, as well as the final issuance of the Temporary Labor Certification after filing the Recruitment Report.

The employers also said they have sent emails and follow-up telephone calls with the USDOL-OFLC, and that significant processing delays are already beyond their control. However, the delay will eventually impact the timely filing of immigration petitions with USCIS before the CW-1 status expiration date of Sept. 30, 2020.

This will leave affected foreign workers without valid status or temporary relief for continued stay and work beginning Oct. 1.

Kilili, Torres' intervention

Arago wrote separately to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday, asking for their intervention on behalf of affected employers of CW-1 workers.

"At this time of unprecedented crisis, we seek your assistance to address these concerns with our federal agency partners," Arago said in his letter.

Arago is optimistic that, with Sablan and Torres' longstanding commitment and support of foreign workers' roles in the Commonwealth's economic development, the two federal agencies will grant the requested relief for a reasonable time to extend the filing period for CW-1 petitions that will extend the legal status of affected workers for their continued stay and work.

"Congressman Kilili and Gov. Torres have been our longstanding partners. They have been with us over the years, supporting one of the backbones of our islands' economic development: our foreign workers.," said Arago.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GUAM

From Page 1

Guam has had one fatality from COVID-19 complications since Sept. 5.

"It seems we will not get rest from our days of sadness. This morning we lost another soul to COVID-19," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "No words can heal the pain from such a loss, but [first gentleman] Jeff [Cook], Lt. Gov. Josh [Tenorio], and I send our condolences and sympathies to everyone she loved. To the people of Guam, we must do all we can to keep each other safe."

Since the beginning of September, Guam has seen multiple COVID-19 casualties, beginning with triple COVID-19 related fatalities, which was their 11th, 12th, and 13th deaths—a 73-year-old, a 36-year-old, and a 74-year-old, followed by a grim streak in the first weekend of the month.

Most of the deaths had underlying health conditions that were enhanced by COVID-19.

Last Sept. 7, Guam saw its 17th and 18th fatalities that were known COVID-19 cases. The 17th case was a 31-year-old female that was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 8:46am, making her the island's youngest COVID-19-related death.

Asan-Maina Mayor Frankie Salas later affirmed in a Facebook video that Guam's youngest COVID-19-related death was his daughter, Jasmine Melinda Erickson Salas.

He said he was diagnosed with COVID-19 last Aug. 28 and should be out of quarantine soon. According to Salas, he was caught in the rain and had a fever, dry throat, and loss of appetite, which led him to get checked for COVID-19, after which his results turned out positive.

Salas said that most of his staff tested negative, his daughter and common-law girlfriend tested negative, as well as his daughter Jasmine's husband and children. He said his daughter, Jasmine, had COVID-19, but he was hopeful that she would make a full recovery. Salas, however, became worried because, just before she died, she was experiencing shortness of breath. She was later brought to GMH and Salas thought that she would be quarantined or examined for having shortness of breath. However, GMH released her.

Salas said he checked remotely on his daughter every day, asking her how she felt, how her children were, and making sure that she continues to take care of herself. He added that she had diabetes and high blood pressure, along with other health issues. What grieves him now is that he is still in quarantine and is unable to view his daughter's body.

MAN

From Page 1

bune archives, autopsies have been put on hold due to the lack of a medical examiner to conduct post-mortem forensic investigations following the retirement of Espinola, the only forensic pathologist in the Marianas, in January last year, at the age of 77.

Back in January, the Office of the Attorney General hammered out an agreement to have a pathologist based off of Hawaii to conduct post-mortem forensic investigations in the Marianas.

Last Wednesday, the Port Authority of Guam had to delay operations on the Matson ship that arrived in Guam that day after a crew member was found lifeless on board.

Port Authority of Guam general manager Rory J. Respicio was notified that morning by Matson that a crew member aboard M/V *Papa Mau* was found unresponsive in his cabin as the vessel was en route to Guam. The captain notified the U.S. Coast Guard immediately, and emergency procedures were implemented.

Once notified of the lifeless crew member, the Port prohibited any operations on the vessel and the port's assistant operations manager escorted four nurses on board to swab the lifeless crew member to check for the presence of COVID-19 infection. Three of the public health nurses were from the Port Clinic and one was a supervisor who came down to the port to take the lead on the swabbing. The nurses were escorted off the ship and the sample taken to DPHSS for testing. The vessel was also met at the dock by Guam Customs and Public Health.

Matson advised that all its crew members were recently tested for COVID-19, and all received negative results. Matson also noted that crew members do not take liberty at the ports they visit.

As a precaution, the Guam port prohibited any operations on the vessel until the COVID-19 test result is received. If the test comes back negative then operations will begin immediately on the vessel. If the swab comes back positive for COVID-19 then the vessel will be placed in quarantine by the port pending further guidance from DPHSS and other authorities.

MEDICAID

From Page 2

$187,400 for the administration of the Medicaid program. She said as a federal-state/territory program, the administration costs are set in Title XIX to be 50-50% for program administration.

Helen Sablan said absolutely no funds were provided from the proposed fiscal year 2021 House budget for utilities, office supplies, or any other operational expenses that would be funded at 50-50%.

The director said the proposed House budget provided no funding for the Medicaid Enterprise Systems that were written into Title XIX because of the large amount of funding provided to the CNMI and the adjustment to matching percentage.

She said that, by not providing a territory match of 10% or $435,268 for the MES projects, the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency will not be able to make "reasonable and appropriate" progress and will jeopardize the current and future funding for the CNMI Medicaid program.

MCS launches first week of hybrid learning

Mount Carmel School welcomed its students back to campus this week to a hybrid learning approach.

To accommodate over 600 students, MCS launched a hybrid system where only specific classes or "cohorts" are on campus on a given day. Those who are not on campus for face-to-face synchronous learning are participating in asynchronous online course work.

Leading up to the start of face-to-face classes on Sept. 8, 2020, Mount Carmel School worked to exceed the expectations of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force. The school divided its primary areas of focus on safety and learning.

To ensure that students, employees, and community members are safe on campus, MCS invested in many resources to reconfigure the school appropriately. Throughout the campus are place markers spread out every 6 feet. Areas like the playground and canteen have been shut down to avoid a congregation of students. Throughout the campus are new washbasins to promote good sanitation practices. In each classroom, desks are spread out every 6 feet and, where possible, plexiglass cubicles are attached to each desk. To ensure the circulated air in each classroom is sanitized, MCS also invested in a UVC lighting fixture in each classroom. Lastly, Mount Carmel School revised its handbook to include new policies and procedures regarding the COVID-19 virus. Many of the school's procedures are guided by the guidelines from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and were adopted in Mount Carmel School's policies and procedures.

"Our team has worked hard for the past six months to make face-to-face classes possible again for our students," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "We understand the importance of reopening face-to-face classes as parents are also returning back to work and can't be home with their children. More importantly, we understand the expectation to keep all our students safe during this pandemic. I can assure you, we have been committed to going above and beyond to keep everyone safe." Mount Carmel School principal Frances Taimanao said, "This experience has been challenging but eye-opening. We have had to approach almost every event or circumstance with a new perspective, but I think this experience has also made us stronger as a school." MCS senior John San Nicolas said the first week of face-to-face classes "is a bit challenging to get used to but I'm also happy just being able to see my friends again. …When it comes to online classes, it can be difficult because I'm having to work harder to pay attention and motivate myself to keep up with the course work, but I'm also grateful to be learning again."

Mount Carmel School's Parent Council president Tina Crisostimo Tudela said, "So far, the beginning of face-to-face classes are going well. My two sons shared with me that the [6-foot] social distancing is being practiced and the teachers are doing their best to keep them safe in their classrooms. Although afternoon pick-up takes a little longer, both the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up have been smooth. If our community continues to prioritize safety with regards to the pandemic, I truly hope that school's will be allowed to operate like before, but at this moment, I'm happy with Mount Carmel's efforts to keep our students safe." ***(PR)***

This week, Mount Carmel School welcomed its students back to campus through a hybrid learning approach. To accommodate over 600 students, MCS launched a hybrid system where only specific classes or "cohorts" are on campus on a given day. Those who are not on campus for face-to-face synchronous learning are participating in asynchronous online course work. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPOWER
YOUR WORK & PLAY
SAMSUNG Galaxy Note20
$199*
Unlimited Data
*15% OFF ONLINE!
SAMSUNG Galaxy Note20 Ultra
$399*
Unlimited Data
ite.net itecnmi itecnmi
*Terms and conditions apply. Advertised pricing is available only on a 24-month agreement on the $80/month Unlimited 4G LTE Data plan. Subject to credit check. See stores or visit www.ite.net for details.
SAMSUNG
IT&E

FALL into Savings

- Dentures - $550
- Partials - $725
- Crowns - $550
- Teeth Whitening - $150

Award-winning dentists Kind and Gentle
Dr. NELSON KRUM
Dr. RICHARD ARBUCKLE

Paradise Dental Spa

Limited time offer-
Call today!
234-4040
Middle Road, Gualo Rai,
across Chong's

www.paradisedentalspa.com instagram.com/paradisedentalspa
facebook.com/paradisedentalspa

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF INTENT TO LEASE PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 006 E 01 containing an area of approximately 2,877 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Unity Trade Service, Inc. The lists of officers for Unity Trade Service, Inc., are Gaudencio C. Macalinao, as President, Jacinta M. Macalinao, as Vice-President, Luzviminda M. Tolentino, as Secretary and Ronel Macalinao, as Authorized Representative.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Ronel Macalinao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operation of auto repair shop, sheet metal works, iron & machine shop & other related issues.

The term of the Public Land Lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, September 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA NU INTENSIÓN NI PARA U MA'ATKILA TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. Maseha håyi na pitsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerått siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion madimånda na para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 006 E 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 2,877 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para i rinikonosimientu.

ii. I prospective lessee i Unity Trade Service, Inc. I manmembru yan manehånti siha gi Unity Trade Service, Inc., si Gaudencio C. Macalinao, komu Presidenti, si Jacinta M. Macalinao, komu Sigundu Presidenti, si Luzviminda M. Tolentino, komu Sekritåria yan si Ronel Macalinao, komu "Authorized Representative".

iii. I maproponi na atkilon mankonfotma yan i regulasion DPL yan manigosiu gi as Siñot Ronel Macalinao.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt solamenti para operasion nu "auto repair shop", sheet metal work, iron" o sino "machine shop" yan otru manasosiåt na prublema.

I teman kuntråtan Atkilon Tanu' Pupbliku bentisingku (25) åñus.

I maproponi na atkilon kada såkkan gi durântin i tema magiha sigun gi putsientu i "appraised fair market value" gi propiedåt yan i aplikåbli na putsientu nu "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårian Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwúngubwúng fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay ákkááw faluweer toulap iye e lo Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Iye re bwal ayoorai sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge lot 006 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 2,877 square meters, elápeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Lower Base, Seipél. Pappidil bwulév eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge unity Trade Service, Inc. List-al officers ngáli Unity Trade Service, Inc., nge Gaudencio C. Macalinao, bwe President, Jacinta M. Macalinao, bwe Vice-President, Luzviminda M. Tolentino, bwe Sekkretóóriya me Ronel Macalinao, bwe Authorized Representative.

iii. Pommwol Atkkilóón e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwol sángi Mr. Ronel Macalinao.

iv. Schóól Atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwulév ngáli mwóghutughutúl auto repair shop, angaangil sheet metal, iron me machine shop me ákkááw mwóghutughut ikka e schuulong igha.

Pommwol Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.
Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh atoll kkapasal abungubwungúl atkkilóón e lo reel "percentage" reel "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage" reel "Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel King's Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli atkkilóón iye rebwe atkkilaay me Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Settembre 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL
Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS!
VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

BMV to resume driving tests for 250 applicants

The CNMI Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicle will resume conducting driving tests for those individuals who were already scheduled for testing from March through May 2020. Driving tests will resume beginning Monday, Sept. 14, 2020. Office hours and continued services are listed below:

Monday - Friday

■ 9am – 11am - Document drop-off

■ 1:30pm – 3pm - Document drop-off

At this time BMV has about 250 pending driving tests that need to be administered before any new driving tests and/or written tests can be scheduled. Current diving test schedules will be administered on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at a maximum of 50 driving tests per day.

The office has already begun calling individuals who were initially scheduled from March through May.

BMV would like to remind drivers looking to avail of the driving test, that vehicles must have the vehicle owner's signature on the front (registration card) and at the back of the driving test schedule sheet (green paper) along with valid up-to-date insurance coverage.

The department will make an announcement once drivers written exam service resume.

BMV services continue to include vehicle registration and transfers, watercraft registration and transfers, and driver's license renewals. At this time all driver written exams are postponed and will be rescheduled until a later date.

All individuals who are looking to visit BMV and avail of the services are required to wear a mask and maintain the standard 6-foot distance when lining up and around other individuals.

We ask individuals to make payments at CNMI Treasury on Capital Hill, or Revenue and Tax in Dandan before turning in documents, as the BMV cashiers window remains closed. BMV continues to accept incoming documents (vehicle/boat registration) and will be processing these documents for next-day pick-up. ***(PR)***

Guam launches COVID Alert app

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—The Department of Public Health and Social Services, in partnership with the Office of the Governor and Office of Technology, unveiled yesterday the Guam COVID Alert app, an exposure notification app that has the ability to alert users if they have been exposed to other app users who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Guam is the first U.S. territory to launch an exposure notification app developed by engineers with Apple, Google, and the PathCheck Foundation that uses Bluetooth technology for digital contact tracing.

"Our island, much like the rest of the globe, is at war with an invisible enemy. But we don't have to fight empty-handed. While we know the effectiveness of contact tracing, when done manually it can be a time-consuming process for our Public Health officials," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "The Guam COVID Alert app digitizes contact tracing efforts and empowers each of us to stop the spread of the virus and save lives."

Guam COVID Alert is based on the PathCheck solution designed to work with the Google Apple Exposure Notification application programming interface. GAEN uses Bluetooth in iOS and Android mobile phones to securely and confidentially identify when people may have been exposed to COVID-19 through the sharing of random keys that are automatically generated.

This app alerts an individual of an exposure notification, allowing the recipient to be informed and take the necessary steps to self-quarantine, seek medical attention, and reduce potential exposure to others over the next 14 days.

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will receive a unique randomized code from a DPHSS official, which can be entered by the user into the Guam COVID Alert app to verify the positive report. Other app users who may have been in close contact to an individual who reported a positive diagnosis will then get alerted to an exposure notification through the app.

By having a better understanding of who is potentially infected and laying low over the next several weeks, Guam can reduce the rate of transmission between individuals and stop the spread of COVID-19. Digital contact tracing is meant to augment manual contact tracing.

"It's an incredible privilege to be working with Guam and many other jurisdictions in the US and worldwide pioneering technology to fight the pandemic," said Ramesh Raskar, co-founder and chief scientist of PathCheck Foundation.

The Guam COVID Alert mobile app is now available for download from the App store and Google Play. ***(PR)***

SELECTED SAIPAN KEYCHAINS & MAGNETS

50-75% OFF

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

25% OFF

SCHOOL BAGS & HAND BAGS

25% OFF

LUGGAGES

25% OFF

ELECTRIC FANS

25% OFF

ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS

25% OFF

TOYS AND GAMES

25% OFF

BATH TOWELS & KITCHEN TOWELS

25% OFF

AREA RUGS

25% OFF

SWIMMING ACCESSORIES

25% OFF

COOLERS & BARBEQUE GRILLS

25% OFF

MENS SHIRTS & SHORTS

25% OFF

LADIES DRESSES, BLOUSES AND PANTS

25% OFF

BOYS SHIRTS

25% OFF

INFANT DRESSES & SETS

25% OFF

SHOES & SANDALS

25% OFF

2020 HELLO FALL WEEKEND SALE

Friday to Sunday, September 11 to 13, 2020

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20#

$12.99

US PORK SPARERIBS 20#

$22.99

BAR-S JUMBO HOTDOGS 1#

$1.39

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50#

$29.99

SUMIRE JAPONICA RICE 44#

$19.99

PALM CORNED BEEF 11.5oz

$3.49 ea.

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz

$1.49 ea.

KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR

$4.99 ea.

JOETEN HAND SANITIZER 80% ALC 300ml

$2.99 ea.

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk

$2.99

MARKET/ORGANIC ITEMS AVAILABLE

PLANTERS CHEESE BALLS 2.75z

$2.99 ea.

BEST Y GREEN BEANS CUT FRZ 16z

$2.49

SUNNY SELECT CHOP BROCCOLI 10z

99¢

BEST YET MIXED VEG FRZN 32oz

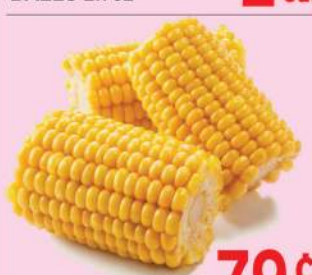
$4.99

BEST YET GREEN PEAS 32oz

$4.95

DUNCAN CAKE GOLDEN BUTTER 15z

$1.99

CORN CUT /LB

79¢/lb.

FROZEN DICED CARROTS VEG 2#

$1.99

MOM COOKIES & CREAM BAG 21z

$3.99 ea.

BETTY BROWNIE CHOC CHNK 18z

$2.99 ea.

TAKIS FUEGO 4oz

99¢ ea.

JELLO PUDDING VANILLA 5.1oz

99¢ ea.

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA MasterCard JCB

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 181

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Stars and Stripes survived an attack, and our troops are better for it

It's hard to say just what Willie and Joe would make of the failed plan to shut down the military's independent news source—*Stars and Stripes*.

Like most American troops, the World War II grunts made famous by cartoonist Bill Mauldin's pen would probably keep marching forward, keep fighting and keep doing their jobs for their country.

Willie and Joe were savvy to the reality of military life. Keep expectations low and you're less likely to be disappointed.

Well, to Willie and Joe and the rest of the men and women who honorably serve this country at great risk and sacrifice, here's one time when things broke your way. The military's independent newspaper, Stars and Stripes, will publish another day.

President Donald Trump flip-flopped on his own budget plan over the weekend and announced that *Stars and Stripes* would get funding that had been stripped from the Pentagon's budget.

The newspaper is owned by the U.S. military but has editorial independence. Its $15 million annual subsidy amounts to a rounding error in the Pentagon's $686 billion budget from last year. Yet the paper by troops, for troops focuses on areas of importance to members of the military like no other publication.

The paper has a proud history dating to World War I. Its editor of that era, Harold William Ross, went on to found The New Yorker magazine. Many other famous journalists followed. By the time Willie and Joe appeared in World War II, winning Mauldin the Pulitzer Prize, it was a crucial news source producing editions around the world.

No one doubts that the digital age has changed the way people receive and consume information and that has impacted *Stars and Stripes* just like it has impacted every other newspaper.

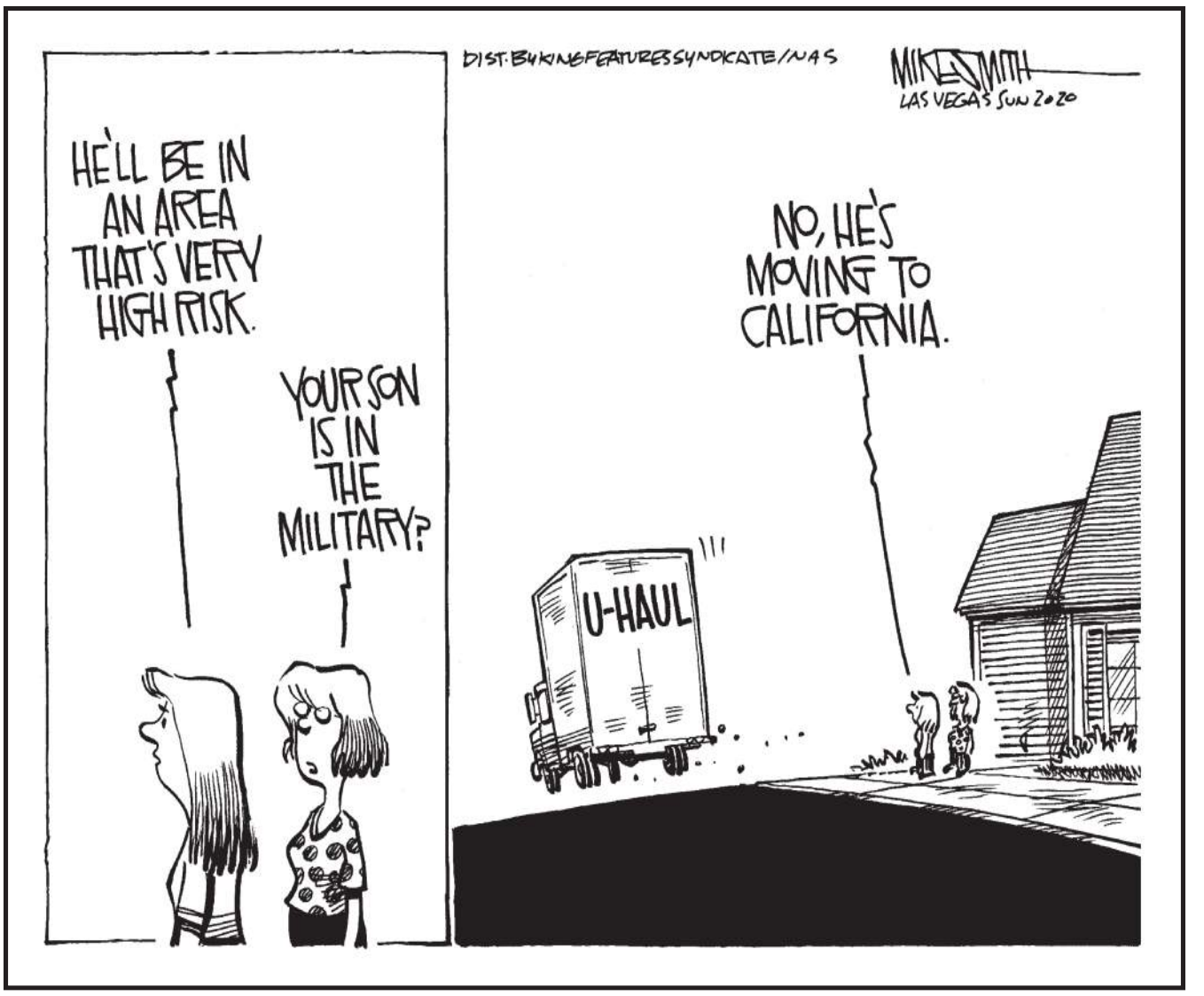
But it's harder to make a serious argument that the quality of information flooding through social media matches the journalism of *Stars and Stripes*, where facts and objective reporting still matter.

Trump has been no friend of the news media, and plenty would argue the media has been no friend to him. Given his opinion of the press, it was easy to see the decision to defund *Stars and Stripes* as another swipe.

His sudden reversal over the weekend came as he was under fire for a report in The Atlantic that claimed he disparaged those who have served and sacrificed for this nation. If there is a connection and the result of The Atlantic piece is that *Stars and Stripes* keeps publishing, then good has come of it.

Our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen deserve an independent paper devoted to them and the important work they do to keep us safe and at peace.

(c) 2020 *The Dallas Morning News*


DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE/NAS
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2020
HE'LL BE IN AN AREA THAT'S VERY HIGH RISK.
YOUR SON IS IN THE MILITARY?
NO, HE'S MOVING TO CALIFORNIA.
U-HAUL

Financing economic recovery

By ARMIDA SALSIAH ALISJAHBANA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is United Nations under-secretary-general and executive secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

As the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the length and breadth of Asia and the Pacific, finance ministries are continuing their relentless efforts to inject trillions of dollars for emergency health responses and fiscal packages. With continued lockdown measures and restricted borders, economic rebound seems uncertain.

Compared to 2019's economic situation, over the past six months, countries in Asia and the Pacific have been experiencing sharp drops in foreign exchange inflows due to declines in export earnings, remittances, tourism, and foreign direct investments. This is worrying as policymakers are tackling difficult choices over how to prioritize development spending, while continuing to expand their squeezed fiscal space.

The United Nations is contributing through a global initiative on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, co-convened by Canada and Jamaica, to articulate a comprehensive financing strategy to safeguard the Sustainable Development Goals.

Governments are united together to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to steer an inclusive, sustainable and resilient post-COVID recovery. In the Asia-Pacific region, several countries have already adopted financing plans in three key areas. They aim to address the challenge of diminished fiscal space and debt vulnerability; to ensure sustainable recovery, consistent with the ambitions of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda; and to harness the potential of regional cooperation in support of financing for development.

The development arm of the United Nations in our region, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has recently launched its first-ever Regional Conversation Series on Building Back Better. We are joining forces with ministers, decision makers, private sectors and heads of international agencies to share collective insights in sharing pathways to resilient recovery from ongoing health pandemic and economic collapse.

To improve the fiscal space and manage high levels of debt distress, a growing call for extending the debt moratorium under global initiatives like the Debt Service Suspension initiative is timely. Central banks can continue to keep the balance right of supporting the economy and maintaining financial stability. This further involves enhancing tax reforms and improving debt management capacities, while using limited fiscal space to invest in priority sectors. Exploring sustainability-oriented bonds and innovative financing instruments options such as debt swaps for SDG investment should be explored further.

In addition to economic considerations, the policy paradigm and financing architecture for recovery plans must mainstream affordable, accessible and green infrastructure standards, while promoting social equality and environmental sustainability principles as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. As we scale up the use of digital technology and innovative applications, the financing support of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises must go hand in hand with these national job-rich recovery strategies.

The Regional Conversation on Financing for Development highlighted that no country could take this agenda forward alone. Regionally coordinated financing policies can restart trade, reorganize supply chains and revitalize sustainable tourism in a safe manner. Thankfully, several countries in the region have valuable experiences to share.

Across Asia and the Pacific, governments must pool financial resources to create regional investment funds in areas such liquidity funds for sustainability, funds for resilience and travel funds to relaunch our economies. Strengthening regional cooperation platforms to ensure that all countries receive an equitable number of doses of the vaccine on short notice to everyone everywhere is particularly essential. Without an end to the pandemic, the economic and social costs can't be contained.

Through ESCAP, we can scale these efforts across the region, working closely with our member States, the private sector and innovators to build a collective financing response to mobilize the necessary additional resources. Together, we can chart financing strategies of Asia and the Pacific which can enhance societal well-being and economic resilience to future pandemics and crises.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reducing the use of plastic bags for the sake of our future

By ONO KAZUHIKO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ono Kazuhiko is the Japanese consul and head of the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan.

Two months have passed since the Government of Japan made it mandatory to charge for plastic bags since July 1 of this year. This coincides with the Ministry of Environment taking the lead on a campaign to reduce the uses of plastic bags. The goal is to increase the percentage of people not requiring plastic bag per week, from 30% in March to 60% by December. But not all plastic bags will be charged. Plastic bags that meet certain criteria will be exempted from the charge: (1) Plastic bags with film thickness of 50 micrometers (to be reusable), (2) 100% biodegradable plastics, (3) or composed of 25% or more with biomass-based materials. Depending on the retail store and size, the once free plastic bags will now cost between 2 to 5 Japanese yen per bag.

But some environmental experts raised a concern that plastic bags make up only 2% of the overall issue of plastic pollution in Japan. At the same time, plastic bags are created by a chemical material known as polyethylene and this chemical is produced during petroleum processing, raising a concern that, regardless of limiting the pollution of plastic bags, the pollution will still continue. With the usage of plastic bags for convenience during our daily life, Japan is known to use roughly 30 billion plastic bags per year. Worldwide, the use of plastic bags is known to amount to 8 million tons per year, which is equivalent to 50,000 jumbo jet aircraft. There are also reports that there will be more trash in the ocean than fish by the year 2050.

We should be concerned about this serious matter of pollution that is continuing to spread across the world. Within plastic pollution, the plastic that's causing the biggest issue is called "micro plastic" or MP. Plastic that is disposed near an environment such as a river will end up in the ocean and is broken into small pieces by waves and ultraviolet rays from the sun. Those broken down bits of plastic with a size of 5mm or less is known as MP and are not biodegradable. They will remain in the ocean semi-permanently and, in some cases, would be found in fish or marine birds. In some reports, MP have been seen in the Arctic Sea and the Antarctic Sea as well. During the G20 Osaka summit held in June, the government of Japan launched the "Osaka Blue Ocean Vision" to aim for zero pollution by plastics in the year 2050 and other countries have also agreed to partake in such efforts.

Now why did the government of Japan make it a requirement to impose a charge on the use of plastic bags? The Ministry of Environment explained that the purpose is to "change the lifestyle of people's reliance on disposable plastic bags." With such a statement, we have to ask ourselves whether plastic bags are really necessary in our daily life. The implementation of charging for plastic bags is an opportunity for us to rethink and change our daily habits. Unfortunately, Japan is not a leading country in this area, as more than 60 countries worldwide have implemented a ban on the use of disposable plastic bags. But with this "Let's reduce the plastic bag" campaign, the use of plastic bags was originally set at a 60% reduction by December but at this rate, the usage may be reduced to over 75%. Will this implementation be the first step to even larger success in preventing pollution in the ocean? Rather than setting a much higher goal at the start, it is important to start small and to continue the trend to reduce the quantity of trash being discarded. One may think, "What effect will it have on the environment if I'm the only one doing it?" but the mindset and awareness of each individual to keep the environment clean is very important, even if that is a small step by bringing their own shopping bag or reusable water bottle.

I am fully aware of the current pandemic caused by COVID-19 and the result of having no tourists visiting these islands. In the Northern Mariana Islands where we live, the tourism industry is very important for our economy and the beautiful ocean is our treasure. Ocean pollution is something that we all must be aware of. To maintain and protect our beautiful nature, we should start thinking and putting into action things we can do. I see and respect the effort of some supermarkets in implementing the measure of having a "no plastic bags day" and some restaurant use only paper straw rather than a plastic straw. Even for myself, I bring my own shopping bag. Measures such as charging for plastic bags may cause some inconvenience, but I feel it is necessary to create a more sustainable lifestyle to protect our environment.

In the tennis court located within the American Memorial Park, there is a drawing of a turtle trying to swim toward the vast ocean and on the top left, these words are written: "Our Reef, Our Future." I would like to spread this message to all of the people in the CNMI.

Trumpty Dump 'T' Tweeter Tales

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

"Not so quod I, let baser things devise
To die in dust, but you shall live by fame:"
—Edmund Spenser, Sonnet 75, born 1552, died 1599, buried in Westminster Abbey

My Reign is a Fabric of Lies

My reign is one big lie and I like to fire,
anyone who goes against my callous grain
will be dismissed if it be my desire
as harder grows the concrete inside my brain
why is it that a stable genius like myself
is not loved more? Those Democrats seem so cold
I earned much more money working by myself
and feel my great accomplishments haven't been told.
They're the best in American history and must be sold
though I'm the best liar all my bling must be known
when lies are revealed they will be found great and bold
this way my great and legendary legacy will be sown.
Such is the power of tweets in my brilliant mind
my base with foresight changes back to being blind.

Donald's Dejection: An Ode Implodes

"Late, late yesterday I saw the new moon
With the old Moon in her arms;
And I fear, I fear, my Master dear!
We shall have a deadly storm."
—from The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens,15th century

Well! I'm the stable genius who bigly made
my number one sycophant VP Mike Pence
my campaign flounders, objectives make no sense
tax lies continue as does my emolument trade.
My conscience devoid of empathy and quite clear
my stubborn intelligence lacks passion and grief
I swear, throw temper tantrums, shed not a tear
fake news cuts me no slack and gives me no relief.
Obsessive narcissistic thoughts are in my mind
my reality is a dark democracy dream.
I tweet out insults and many other things unkind
the nation reads them, takes notice and starts to scream.
I give it my middle finger and flip it a moon
and keep on sucking my inherited silver spoon.

US food system needs reform

By ANTHONY PAHNKE
Tribune News Service

Anthony Pahnke (anthonypahnke.com) is vice president of Family Farm Defenders and an assistant professor of international relations at San Francisco State University in San Francisco. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

According to the USDA, Americans spend less on food as a percent of their incomes than anyone else in the world.

This may seem like a good deal, especially for people who struggle to make ends meet. But, in fact, our cheap food economy is really a crooked one, with family farmers and food system workers underwriting a system that disproportionately benefits corporations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought this into focus more than ever, by highlighting how the system cheats rural and urban working people out of a decent life.

Mario Ramirez, the lead organizer of the Voces de la Frontera Essential Workers Rights Network, says that companies' responses to the pandemic have been far from adequate for workers in meatpacking plants.

"They treat workers like machines," Ramirez says. "There were people, after raising concerns, who were fired and who worked there for 15 or 20 years. They thought they were like family."

Ramirez's comments come after the Voces de la Frontera Essential Workers Rights Network won a $264,000 cash settlement for workers who had been terminated after raising concerns over workplace conditions at Strauss Brands, a meatpacking facility outside of Milwaukee.

But the conditions denounced at the Strauss plant are not unusual.

Meatpacking companies across the country have been faulted since the pandemic began for failing to provide workers with face masks and health information, or ensuring that they maintain sufficient distance from each other.

And while some meatpacking plant workers have received additional compensation during the pandemic, Ramirez thinks it's not enough.

"Workers risk their lives," he says.

Ramirez is right: As of Tuesday, according to the Food & Environment Reporting Network, COVID-19 has killed at least 249 food workers, mostly in meatpacking plants, since the pandemic began. At least 58,058 workers have tested positive.

Average pay for front-line workers in the industry hovers around $15 an hour -- far from a living wage for a family.

Farmers, too, have suffered from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Jim Briggs, a dairy farmer and member of the Wisconsin Farmers Union, says COVID-19 has shown that our consolidated food system must change.

"With consolidation," Briggs explains, "milk goes to just a handful of places to be processed. When one of the places shuts down in this pandemic, it throws a kink in the whole system. We wouldn't have this problem if we had smaller processors for milk and beef."

Farmers have been struggling, with restaurant and school cafeteria closings forcing large-scale food processors to retool, which in turn has created bottlenecks in the supply chain. This has made volatile markets even more erratic, leaving many vulnerable to price dips and unable to pay off debts.

According to the National Farmers Union, farmers receive less than 15 cents for every food dollar that is spent. The rest goes to food processors, retailers and restaurants.

It doesn't have to be this way. We can change the system to improve pay and working conditions for the people who produce the food we put on our tables.

Meatpacking workers need a living wage, improved conditions and legal protections for those who raise complaints. Farmers need a floor price for their produce. Both workers and farmers would both benefit from the enforcement of existing antitrust legislation, which would put the breaks on corporate consolidation.

This pandemic has exposed critical weaknesses in our food system. Let's work on addressing these issues so that essential workers are no longer treated as if they were disposable.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET:
FIELD OF HEROES
2020

19th Anniversary of September 11th

In the spirit of unity and remembering all September 11th heroes, DFEMS would like to extend an invite to participate in a road side waving on September 11th, at 1-2 pm, Atkins Kroll Intersection.

Si Yu'us Maase, Ghilisoow, and Thank you

IN HONOR OF:

Aaron Hernandez
Abraham Quitugua
Abram Cepeda Togawa
Adam Q. Emul, US Marine Corps Lance CPL
Adrian Cabrera Lizama
Adrian Echon
Adrian Mendiola
Adrian Sablan
Albert Abadam
Aldebert Concepcion Jr., US Army Major
Alejandro Barcinas, Fireman
Alejandro Dela Cruz Aldan, Asst. Chief
Alejandro King
Alfred Camacho
Alfred Santos Jr, CNMI Customs
Alfredo G. Cablay Jr. (US Army) SGT
Allen Jonathan Irog, US Army
Allen S. DL Guerrero, Military
Allijah Graham, US Army
Almondo C. Santos
Ambrose Ogumoro Jr
Amy Joe Ignacio Kisa
Anamarie Inos
Anamarie SN Camacho, US Navy Seaman
Andrew Sablan
Angel Demapan, Veteran
Anthony Macaranas
Anthony S. Guerrero
Antonio Camacho Tenorio-Corporal, US Marines, WWII
Antonio M. Atalig
Antonio Q. Maratita
Antonio Teregeyo Kogol, US ARMY
Arden V. Sablan
Aries S. Villagomez
Arron S. DL Guerrero, Military
Artak Davtian
Ashley Fujihira Salas
Audra P.M. Winkfield, Us Air Force SrA
Augustin Salas Naputi Jr, US Coast Guard
Beato H. Manglona
Benedict Q. Lizama
Benjamin Castro
Benjamin Paul T. Manglona
Benji Castro
Benjie Lito D. Estoque
Bernard P. Villagomez
Bernard S. Guerrero
Billy Joe Camacho
BJ Sampang, US Air Force
BJ Tesiro, CNMI Customs
Bobbie Jean Taisacan, DFEMS
Boz S. Igitol, Military
Brad Ruszala, Veteran, US Army
Bradford Peter
Branson Jay Santos, DFEMS
Brian S. Leon Guerrero, US Army SGT
Britney I. Maratita, Military
Bruce Johnson
Bruno, TSA K9/CPA Officer
Carleen Desebel, TSA
Carlos Aguon
Casey Oblado, US Army
Catherine C. Manglona, SPC
Charles Boddy III
Chela Arriola Watson, US Army CPT
Chloe B. Hocog (US Army Veteran)
Christian Rosario
Christina Guerrero, US Army
Christine Igisomar
Christopher B. Hocog (US Army Veteran)
Christopher M. Del Rosario, Guam Army Nat'l Guard SPC
Clay Castro
Clinton O. Ngiraked
Craig C. Calvo
Dan Meyer
Daniel Mayer
Danny I. Aqunio Jr, US Army Reserve Veteran
Darren M. Santos, Firefighter I
Darrin Watson, US Army 1SG
Dave Michael Santos, USMC CPL
David John Apatang, US Army Veteran
David Lotz
David M. Bamba
David P. Santos (US Army National Guard) LT COL
David Taptto, US Marines Corp
Debra Mafnas Rosario, Navy Veteran
Dennis Urdaneta
Derek Gersonde, DFEMS
Derence W. Jack, US Army SPC
Dexter Dillay
Deyna Rose Apatang Sunderland, US Army
Diego Espiritu
Diego Mendiola
Don M. Atalig
Don, Y174 TSA K9/CPA Officer
Donald Mendiola Jr.
Donald Rhea
Dwayne W. Flores, SPC
Edward Brice Muna Sablan
Edward M. Ayuyu
Edward S. Concepcion, VET
Edward U. Maratita
Edwin S. Diaz, US Air Force
Eileen Gail Echaluse, US Air Force TSGT
Einreb Bismanos, US Army
Elias Saralu
Eric C. Sablan, Veteran, US Army
Eric David
Ernesto M. Rosario
Ervin Arurang
Fatima Annie Charfauros, E1
Fausia Dela Cruz, TSA
Federick A. Pangelinan
Felixberto M. Ogo III (US Army) PV2
Ferminton M. Maratita, OGT
& All the Members of the US Armed Forces
Francis Q. Pangelinan
Francisco Acosta, Marine Corp Veteran
Francisco Camacho
Francisco S. Ada, Staff Sargeant
Franco Sai SN Taimanao, US Army SPC
Frank B. Camacho, VET
Frank Cepeda
Frank Flores Jr.
Frank I. Aquino, US Army Veteran
Frank Mesngon Jr. (US Army)
Frank William Sablan Jr.
Franklin Wayne Manglona (US Army) SSG
Fred L. Sato, PO3
Fredrick Ushca
Gabriel Cruz
Georben Rosario
George (Keoki) Joseph Affatica Sablan, SSG
George Haberman, Retired US Army
George Rosario
Gerald Borja
Gerald Skilang Sablan
Gerard Van Gils, Million Dollar Scholar Organizer
Gilbert Kahele
Glendon Jude O. Maratita, SPC
Greg Sablan, VET
Gregorio Hosono Sablan
Gregory Lamar Nelson
Guy Gabaldon
Hana G. Granada
Hanson Mendiola, US Army SPC
Hardy Richards
Harriet L. Hirsh
Harry Blanco
Henry A. Camacho, Jr
Henry A. Manglona Jr. (DPS) PO1
Henry C. Pangelinan
Henry D. Del Avellano, Army National Guard
Henry Haberman
Henry Litulumar, TSA
Henry Mark Ada Chlarson, US Marine Corps
Henry S. Ofeciar
Herman Atalig, SGM
Herman J. Guerrero
Ian Erwin Leyco, US Air Force SSGT
Ignacio "Ike" Palacios
Ivan Igitol, Reservist/1st Responder
J.J Attao, US Army Veteran
Jacin Ayuyu
Jackie Salas Holmes
Jacob Fejeran
Jade Haberman
Jaime L. Vales
Jamaal Loi Mresbang
James Jucutan
James Kennedy Benjamin
James Libut, US Army
Janet S. Tenorio
Jasmine Sales, US Army Reserves
Jaymark DeGuzman
Jayson Tinney
Jeff Riman, Reservist, US Army
Jefferson Monton, US Air Force
Jeffrey V. Diaz
Jemima Cruz
Jeremiah Jayona, US Army
Jerry Ayuyu
Jess Mesa, DFEMS
Jesse Dubrall
Jesse J. Castro, US Army SGT
Jesse John Duenas Yamagishi - US Air Force Airman
Jesse Joseph S. Camacho
Jessica Deleon Guerrero
Jesus L. Santos
Jesus Rasiang Teregeyo, US Marine Corps
JJ Concepcion, DFEMS
Joana Ridge
Joaquin I. Guerrero, Army SSG
Joaquin Repeki
Joaquin Sablan Tudela
Joe G. Charfauros Jr., Corporal
Joe Salas, CPA Ports Police
Joellene LG Abadam
Joey A.P. Tajalle, Army Veteran
Joey C. Dela Cruz, 1st Responder
John A. Camacho, US Navy
John Anthony Mendiola, Army
John Anthony O. Manglona (US Army) CW3
John Attao, Marine Corps Veteran
John B. Blas
John Cabrera
John Cepeda
John Flores, US Army PFC
John Maratita, Military
John Paul Attao, US Army Veteran
John Paul Lubrani, US Navy
John Salamon
John T. Blas, Veteran
John Umbay
John White, TSA
Jon Joyner
Jonathan Abadam
Jonathan C. Deleon Guerrero
Jonathan Sablan
Joreen Duenas Pangelinan
Jose I. Sablan, Retired US Army
Jose S. Imamura
Jose Villagomez
Josef Pepito F. Reyes, US Air Force
Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan, US Army SPC
Joseph Aldan Reyes, Ports Police Chief
Joseph Aldan, ARFF Fire Lieutenant
Joseph Attao, US Army SGT
Joseph C. Manglona
Joseph Hocog
Joseph King Sablan
Joseph M. Fejeran, Veteran
Joseph Magofna
Joseph Marty Fejeran
Joseph S. Flores, SSGT
Joseph Santos, US Air Force
Joseph White
Josepha B. Manglona (US Army Veteran)
Joshua Deleon Guerrero, Guam Air Guard
Joshua Manglona
Jovan G. Charfauros, TSGT
Julian F. Manglona, US Army SSG
Justice Perry Inos Snr.
Justin Ferry, US AirForce SSGT
Justin Jack C. Ogo (US Army) SGT
Justo Quitugua, Veteran, US Air Force
Karl Werner III
Katherine A. Manglona (US Army Veteran)
Kedesh T. Armia, US Army
Kelvin Hocog
Ken Inos, Purple Heart
Kenneth Charles Hirsh- SGT, US Army, WWII
Kenneth H. Jones
Kevin Calibo, Veteran, US Army
Kevin O. Hocog
Keziah T. Armia, US Navy
Kirk Johns, DEA
Klarence Garrison, US Air Force
Kristine Dlg. Fryer
Kristine Macaraeg, US Coast Guard
Kyoshi Don Kilelemam
Lanie M. Villanueva-Crawford
Lawrence Echon
Lawrence L. Pangelinan
Lawrence R. Larson
Leeroy A. Camacho, US Army SPC
Leighton Kahele
Linson Manahan
Linus Mizutani, Jr.
Llobster, M187 TSA K9/CPA Officer
Lovely L. Diestro
Lucio Aldan Kalen
Luis Andrew Macaranas
Luis F. Arriola, US Army Maj.
Luis Manglona
Malik Graham, US Army
Manuel Blas S. Flores, SSG
Manuel Cosme
Manuel Flores
Manuel G. Sablan
Manuel P. Balajadia
Mariano I. Aquino, Army Veteran
Mariano S. Sablan
Marie Louchelle F. Reyes-Menchavez, US Air Force
Mark Anthony Cabaltica - US Air Force Airman
Mark Sablan
Mark Toves, CPA Ports Police Capt.
Marlon Marquez
Marlon Orilly Garde
Mart C. Sablan
Martin Ezra Teregeyo, US Army Veteran
Martin Manglona
Martin Pangelinan Jr.
Marvin Cruz
Mateo S. Imamura
Mathew Magofna Duenas
Mathew S. Fejeran
Mathew Taitano Dela Cruz
Matias Chargualuaf, US Army Veteran
Matthew Cabrera
Matthew M. Ooka
Matthew S. Villagomez, US Navy
Mayor David M. Apatang, US Army Veteran
Melanie Joy Licerio, US Army Reservist
Melinda Naputi, Retired CNMI Immigration
Melvin Castro
Michael C. Sablan
Michael Concepcion, Priority Care
Michael Jay Camacho
Michael M. Calvo
Michael O'Kelley, Veteran
Michael V. Camacho
Michael Yamada Garon, US Navy
Michele Harris, Veteran
Mike Delfin, 1LT, Army
Mmandy, M161 TSA K9/CPA Officer
Mona "Celia" Mercado
Monique G. Sablan
Nadine Deleon Guerrero, Homeland Security
Naomi Ada, Homeland Security
Naomi Taisacan, Veteran, US Army
Nathaniel Mateo
Ned Norita, DPS
Neil Ryan B. Sablan, US Marine Corps Staff Sargeant
Nicole Cabrera
Niel Sablan
Nobert A. Apatang
Norberto F. Sablan
Norman Harris Powell
Norman John Powell
Norvin C. DLGuerrero, Retired US Marine Corps
Oscar M. Ogo
Oscar Torres, Veteran
Paolo Josef Reyes, US Air Force
Patricia Concepcion, Retired CNMI Immigration
Patrick Arriola, DPS
Patrick Cajamarca
Patrick Manlonga
Paul Acebedu
Paul Atalig
Paul Manglona
Paul Sasamoto, CNMI Firefighter, EMS
Pauline Francis Kapileo
Pedro F. Sakisat
Pedro F. San Nicolas
Pedro H. Hocog
Pedro L. Ogo
Pedro T. Sablan, US Marine Scout
Peggy, TSA K9/CPA Officer
Peter Aldan
Peter Bamba
Peter John Mesa
Peter Muna, US Army
Public Defender's Office
Raccine Gerard Reyes Hizon
Raimundo C. Manglona (Police Capt/US Army Reserve)
Ralphael L. Magofna
Ramina R. Aquino, SFC, Guam National Guard
Ramon T. Kaipat, US Marine Corps Lance CPL
Randall Richards
Ray Terlaje, Us Marines Corp
Ray Villagomez, ARFF Firefighter
Raymond Alvarez Sr.
Raymond Cabrera, CNMI Customs
Raymond Omar, Police Captain
Rebecca Albiento, US Army
Reina Camacho, CNMI Customs
Ricardo M. Barcinas
Ricardo P. Balajadia, Vietnam Veteran
Richard Berger, COL
Richard Macaraeg, US Coast Guard
Richard Newcomer, CPL
Richelle Flores
Rico B. Salas, Military
Rifka, M556 TSA K9/CPA Officer
Robert B. Woodruff
Robert Chance
Robert H. Jones, Triple J Enterprises, Inc.
Robert Marron
Robert Mojica, DFEMS
Robert S. Calvo
Robert S. Deleon Guerrero, US Army
Rodney S. Deleon Guerrero, US Marines
Rodwealth Espana, US Army PFC
Rollie John Dela Cruz
Romenick Sotto
Ronald Barrineau
Ronald Hansen
Royce Thomas Barcinas, Veteran, US Marine Corps
Rufus Haspalur
Ruselle Zapanta, US Marine Corps Veteran
Ryan Kikku, CNMI Customs
Ryan Tudela
Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
Sammy Lee Igharasow Romolor Litulumar
Santiago M. Babauta
Santiago Tudela
Saturnino S. Kaipat Jr.
Scott Schick
Sean White, Veteran
Sevio Chargualaf
Shane C. Camacho
Shawn A. Tajalle, Army Major
Shelwyn Dela Cruz Taisacan
Sixtus Litulumar Aquino
Soane Pua
Sonny Vidal C. Sablan, Veteran, US Army
Sons of Saipan
Stacie A. Mizutani
Stanley Jacrie Lizama Santos Jr
Stanley S. Santos
Stanley Santos, DFEMS
Stephanie Camacho, Guam National Guard
Stephen A. R. Litulumar, US Marine Corps Lance CPL
Steven M. Mendiola
Stevie Cabrera
Sylvan Tudela
Theo Dalimoncon Jr.
Thomas A. Blas Jr, Army SGT
Thomas F. Tudela, Army SGT
Thomas M. Atalig Sr.
Thomas Manglona Atalig II, Army SGT
Tiagh Carter, Dispatcher, ISP
Timothy Sunderland, Army Veteran
Tj H. Atalig (US Army National Guard) CPT
Tommy Alexander, Police Captain
Trenton Brodge, US Air Force
Ty Cabrera
Va'ina Rhe A. Lizama, PO I
Vicente Juan Pangelinan
Vicente M. Ayuyu
Victor M. Fontanilla, US Army PFC
Victor T. Reyes
Victor W. Salas, VET
Vince Dela Cruz
Vincent L. Leon Guerrero, SPC
Viola Alepuyo
Wilgene Tudela Lieto, US Army Staff SGT
William Fleming Jr.
William Fleming Sr.
Yihjyh "Eddie" L. Chen, US Army SGT
Zachary D. Aquino, National Guard
Zeldaleen Magofna
Zip, TSA K9/CPA Officer

SAIPAN

TINIAN

ROTA

2016

2017

2018

2019

Thank you sponsors!

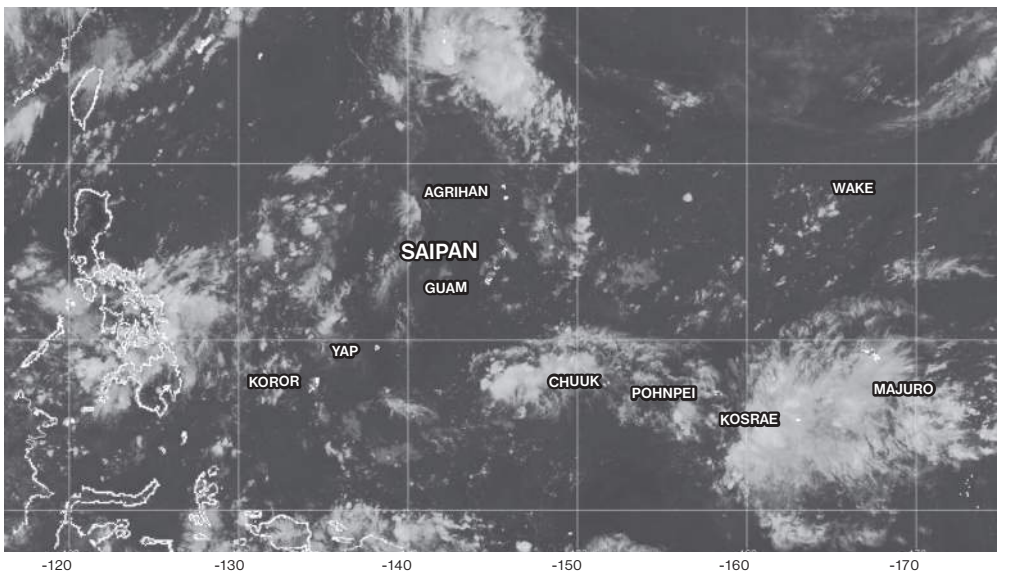
Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Incorporated
Customers First TRIPLE J
E-LAND GROUP
IMPERIAL PALACE
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E
D&Q International Distributors
ISLAND APPAREL
ARTMAN CORP
Marianas Variety
DFS
HYATT REGENCY
HOTEL VALENTINO
EXPRESS
docomo pacific Better Together
Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
J.E.T. HOLDINGS COMPANY
First Hawaiian Bank.
MODERN OFFICE SUPPLY
Bank of Guam
BANK OF SAIPAN Marianas Pride
CITY TRUST BANK
Coca-Cola
BRIDGE CAPITAL LLC
PACIFIC TRADING CO., LTD.
MAR PAC Inc.
National Office Supply
TakeCare
Traders Insurance Company PROTECTION AND COMMITMENT
GPPC
IP&E
Bank of Hawaii
POWER 99
STAR Marianas Air

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. east to southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy monday. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy monday. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy becoming mostly cloudy monday. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
89º 78º	89º 78º	89º 78º	89º 77º	89º 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:24 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Light southerly flow prevails with a surface trough to the west and gentle trade flow to the east. Radar shows isolated showers across the CNMI with very little around Guam. Buoys indicate combined seas are 3 feet with most energy from the NW.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:16 PM	11:49 PM
Friday	-	1:09 PM	6:28 AM
Saturday	12:39 AM	2:04 PM	-
Sunday	1:34 AM	2:58 PM	-
Monday	2:32 AM	3:52 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84° / 64°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Rain	64° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	66° / 50°
Miami	Windy	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	77° / 63°
Osaka	Sunny	88° / 68°
Paris	Windy	64° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Rome	Showers	75° / 64°
Salem	Showers	74° / 59°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	76° / 61°
Seoul	Sunny	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:01 AM	LOW TIDE	0.36
2:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55
7:26 PM	LOW TIDE	1.24
-	-	-

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES

GUM-MNL

UA183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	7:30am	10:50pm	5 via Guam

Friday GUM-MNL will need THU overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

ARRIVALS

MNL-GUM

UA184	10:45pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

Monday MNL-GUM will need TUE-WED overnight in GUM, so did not include in below.

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Making new memories of food and fun at the Miyako

For more information, call (670) 234-1234

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A few days ago, Facebook reminded me of a lunch I had with friends at the Miyako at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in September last year. The picture reminded me of the great conversations and bursts of laughter while relishing an array of Japanese treats.

A year later, the world has changed, people's lifestyles have changed, old protocols in public establishments were eliminated and new standards added. This is our new normal. Yet if you think that the memory of having an enjoyable meal at Miyako would only be a memory, it turns out that it is still amazingly possible today.

While standing in a buffet line is no longer happening, one can still enjoy a meal at the Miyako, which is open during lunch from Monday to Saturday, from 11:30am to 2pm, this time with Miyako Set Lunch Menus that showcases your favorite Japanese dishes in an "eat what you want and all you can" style that is served at your table. No more standing up for you.

Miyako Set Lunch Menu comes in two varieties: the Unlimited Sashimi Lunch and Unlimited Miyako Lunch.

Aside from the different flavors and textures in every bite of sashimi or sushi, the Unlimited Sashimi Lunch is also fresh and healthy food. It comes with an appetizer, salad, rice, soup and pickles.

The Unlimited Miyako Lunch is an array of different Japanese dishes that includes an appetizer and salad, sushi, sashimi, tempura, a main dish akin to a traditional bento that has cooked vegetables, fish or meat and paired with

See MIYAKO on Page 16

The main dish of the Unlimited Miyako lunch will change every two weeks to guarantee variety and maximize local ingredients that are in season.

BEA CABRERA

CONGRESSMAN
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS

Opportunities to learn and serve at the U.S. Service Academy include a fully funded education and a commission as a military officer upon graduation.

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy

Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.

To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

20 International 19 Coastal Cleanup
cnmi

1,617
volunteers participated

9,427 lbs.
of trash collected

76
locations cleaned

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SEPTEMBER 19 Saturday

Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Pollution

Locally led by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest single-day cleanup event with the goal of collecting and documenting trash littering our coastlines and waterways. Volunteers from states and territories throughout the U.S. and over 100 countries worldwide come together every year and participate in the cleanup event near them. The two layers of science and community service is what distinguishes the ICC from everyday cleanups. The data collected during the ICC is entered into Ocean Conservancy's Global Trash Database and is crucial to solving the world's ocean pollution problem.

35th International Coastal Cleanup 2020 CNMI

Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

SIGN UP TODAY AT www.dcrm.gov.mp

mina Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance

Scan this QR code to go directly to DCRM's website!

Scan me

For more information, contact the ICC Coordinator: **Colleen Flores** at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp or (670) 664-8300 / 8316

Thank You for SHAPING our FUTURE

United States® Census 2020

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

MIYAKO

From Page 13

rice, soup, and pickles.

According to Hyatt executive sous chef Zen Tomokane, the main dishes in the Unlimited Miyako Lunch change every two weeks so guests can keep coming and still find new dishes to savor. "Creativity plays a huge part in how we mix and match the food options. We…sat with our restaurant manager, servers, and even Miyako regulars on what do guests like…," he said

I had the Unlimited Miyako Lunch, which started with a salad, lots of greens with just a hint of Japanese dressing that was not overpowering. I paired it with the steamed egg custard or "chawanmushi" that was a delight in the mouth and pieces of chicken meat waits for you at the bottom of the cup. It was followed by a variety of temari sushi, which had shrimp, egg, and seared tuna. Next up was the sashimi, which was composed of salmon, tuna, onaga, scallops, and my favorite, hamachi. Tempura is a staple on my plate whenever I eat Japanese and they had prawn, sweet potato, and mushroom. The main dish was composed of salmon marinated in a light sweet sauce and slices of chicken.

From left, Hyatt executive sous chef Zen Tomokane, Miyako staff Sally, and Food & Beverage director Ty Pauling. BEA CABRERA

Food presentation was enticing and since the dishes where well portioned, I didn't get full right away and had room for dessert—the classic Miyako sago and lychee fruit in coconut milk, Japanese cheesecake, and chocolate cake. Win!

Both menus are unlimited because whatever menu you choose, you can eat all the appetizers, sashimi, tempura, main dish and dessert you want. If you choose to eat and order one dish again and again from the same menu, one can do that too.

"The food is brought to your table so guests won't have to fall in line at the buffet counter and touch communal serving spoons and tongs. Just allow us 5 to 10 minutes to bring the next dish to your table and you are guaranteed that your next plate is fresh and warm every time," said marketing manager and graphic artist Mariangela Mendoza. "This way, guests won't have to miss a part of the conversation, meeting or celebration when he or she has to stand up to get food. …For guests who are still not comfortable dining in closed spaces, we are currently offering an alfresco dining option at the Kili Café & Terrace so any guest who want to enjoy the Miyako set lunch buffet they can do that in an alfresco environment " she added.

Hyatt Regency Saipan Food & Beverage director Ty Pauling said that they want people to enjoy their dining experience with Hyatt as much as possible. "In today's environment, we know that we need to make our guests feel comfortable… and we do this by following the proper protocols to keep them safe," said

"In our restaurants and throughout the hotel, all Hyatt employees observe safety and health protocols in place such as frequent sanitation, washing of hands every 30 minutes and we have a team going around sanitizing 'high touch' areas. …Recently, all Hyatt hotels, including Saipan, were certified by Global Biorisk Advisory Council to ensure that we are ready to prevent, correct and provide proper response and recover from any potential infection," Pauling added.

The Unlimited Miyako Lunch is only $42. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome and 25% local discount applies. For more information, call (670) 234-1234 or look them up on FaceBook: Hyatt Regency Saipan, and on their websitehttp://saipan.regency.hyatt.com.

Health and Safety protocols are in place at Miyako and all throughout the Hyatt Regency Saipan. BEA CABRERA

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ANA FRANCES I. GATBONTON and IVANN I. GATBONTON, Defendants.	)))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0128 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 26, 2018, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot no. 011 G 262, situated in Kagman III, Phase II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 799 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 011 G 06 dated December 1, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Total area of the property:
799 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None Material

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020 at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of sale.

DATED, this 18th day of August, 2020;

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- The Estate of JOAQUINA NEKAFES KANIKI, Deceased, Defendant.	)))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0225 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 7, 2019, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:

Lot no. 015 D 54, situated in Sugar King Estates, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 015 D 00, the original which was registered on September 11, 1975, as Document no. 4841, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Total area of the property:
982 square meters, more or less

Known encumbrances: None

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 25, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 18th day of August, 2020

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Agatha Seman
P.O. Box 7893 SVRB
989-1327
PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF Ike A. Seman An Incompetent by Agatha W. Seman Petitioner	]]]]]]]	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION 20-0220 NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Agatha Seman, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Marianas Business Plaza, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary, before Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 21st day of September, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom CNMI Supreme Court or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

Oliver M. Manglona (F0489)
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 285-3750 | Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner Eugenio Ibalio Vargas, Jr.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EUGENIO CRUZ VARGAS, SR., Deceased.	)))))	Civil Action No. 20-0278 NOTICE OF HEARING ON VERIFIED PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR; and **NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Judge: Joseph N. Camacho Date: September 24, 2020 Time: 10:00 a.m. Courtroom: Supreme Court courtroom

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EUGENIO CRUZ VARGAS, SR.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Eugenio Ibalio Vargas, Jr., has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the **Estate of Eugenio Cruz Vargas, Sr., Decedent**. The attorney for Petitioner is **Oliver Manalang Manglona, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 7862 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950**.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by **Eugenio Ibalio Vargas, Jr.**, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on September 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, *Guma' Hustisia*, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the Decedent or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **OLIVER M. MANGLONA, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated**.

Dated this 3rd day of September 2020.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 11, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Leo Liu dba Tinian Real Estate Development, LLC	08/10/2020 TMS-2020-X-067	Tinian Ocean Resort Condominium	Carolinas, Tinian	Major Siting	Certified Complete 08/31/2020
2. Lotus Homes, LLC	08/06/2020 SMS-2020-X-065	Four-Story Apartment Complex	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Certified Complete 09/01/2020
3. Commonwealth Ports Authority	09/03/2020 RPIm-2020-X-0903	Rota Commercial Small Boat Marina	West Harbor, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
4. Office of Representative Roman Benavente, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-077	Construction of One Beach Pala-Pala Structure	Laolao Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	On Hold*
5. Office of Representative Roman Benavente, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-078	Construction of Three Beach Pala-Pala Structures	Obyan Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	On Hold*
6. Office of Representative Roman Benavente, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-079	Construction of Two Beach Pala-Pala Structures	San Antonio Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	On Hold*
7. Office of the Vice Speaker, 21st House of Representatives of the CNMI Honorable Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero	09/04/2020 SSm-2020-X-080	Construction of One Beach Pala-Pala Structure	Laolao Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2015 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/(670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

VEHICLE FOR SALE

2017 MAZDA 6 - 4 DOOR SEDAN

For more information, please contact Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859/(670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 AT 5:00PM

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. A vehicle bid form can be obtained from Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Business

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The newly opened PHI Pharmacy Garapan is located in the 1st floor of the BRI Building in Garapan, behind the Horiguchi Building and across the Kristo Rai Church.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Like other PHI Pharmacy branches on Saipan, the new Garapan location has over-the-counter medications, health and beauty products, vitamins, and workout supplements available.

PHI Pharmacy opens new location in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

PHI Pharmacy has opened a new branch in Garapan this week. The new branch is in the 1st floor of the BRI Building in Garapan, which is behind the Horiguchi Building and across the Kristo Rai Church.

Joshua Wise, PHI Pharmacy general manager, said the new location between Middle Road and Beach Road on Kopa Di Oru Street provides easy access whether you are heading north or south.

"PHI Pharmacy in Garapan provides an additional location for our customers' convenience. Our Garapan, Kagman, and Dandan locations all share a real-time pharmacy database so transferring prescriptions from one store to another is simple. Our Dandan store is open 365 days a year. Due to our linked database, we can transfer your prescription to our Dandan location if the Kagman or Garapan locations are closed that day," he said.

Wise added that a licensed pharmacist is available on location to help answer your prescription and healthcare questions at PHI Pharmacy Garapan. They also have over-the-counter medications, health and beauty products, vitamins, and workout supplements available in store.

Serving the CNMI since 1996, PHI Pharmacy has been striving to provide the best quality pharmacy services for the local community.

"We are always incorporating innovative services that provide the most prescription cost savings through manufacturer discounts and compliance programs. PHI Pharmacy is a contract pharmacy for the 340B program that has been helping hundreds of people gain access to medications at little to no cost through the Care Card (sliding fee) program at the Kagman Community Health Center," said Wise.

For the latest information on sales and health information, visit PHI Pharmacy on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/phipharmacy. You can also reach them at 323-5000/1/2.

For the latest information on sales and health information, visit PHI Pharmacy on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/phipharmacy. You can also reach them at 323-5000/1/2. PHI Pharmacy Garapan is located at Suite 105 in the BRI Building and is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 6pm, Saturdays from 8am to 1pm and closed on Sundays and most holidays.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator, BECQ

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LOTUS HOMES
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2020-X-065

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Lotus Homes project.

Lotus Homes, LLC is proposing to construct a multi-family, 4-story apartment building with 44 units consisting of three bedrooms, and 4 units consisting of two bedrooms. The proposed development will include a 1-story office building, a 1-story generator facility, a children's playground, 16 light posts throughout the parking lot area, 104 parking stalls, a 6-feet chain-link fence and landscaping. Lotus Homes will be located on Japone Drive and Bokung Lane, specifically identified as Lot No. 22642-NEW, in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Monday, September 28, 2020, at 3PM.**

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, *this public hearing will be conducted via video conferencing through Google Meet* (meeting code meet.google.com/unn-mboh-ezr or join via telephone by dialing (US) +1 336-914-1170 PIN: 255 857 615#).

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Lotus Homes project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator, BECQ

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TINIAN OCEAN RESORT CONDOMINIUM
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. TMS-2020-X-067

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the major siting project for the proposed Tinian Ocean Resort Condominium.

The Tinian Real Estate Development, LLC (TRED) is proposing to construct a mixed-used, prefabricated condominiums on 1.17 acres of privately leased properties situated on the corner of Wall Street and Park Row identified as Lot No. 031 T 01 in Carolinas, Tinian. The proposed development includes 6 buildings with 377 units and a mezzanine floor, 183 parking spaces with an additional 10 ADA compliance parking spaces.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Friday, October 02, 2020, at 2:00PM, in San Jose, Tinian. The public hearing will be conducted at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria.**

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Ocean Resort Condominium projects.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
DEQ: P.O. Box 501304, DCRM: P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
DEQ Tel.: (670) 664-8500/01; Fax: (670) 664-8540
DCRM Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.deq.gov.mp and www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Jonathan I. Arriola
DEQ Director

PRESS RELEASE
PUBLIC NOTICE

BECQ RELEASES CNMI 2020 DRAFT 305(b) and 303(d) WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT INTEGRATED REPORT

The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ), Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), under the Office of the Governor, hereby notifies the public that the Draft 2020 305(b) and 303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report and supporting documents have been made available for public review on DEQ's web page www.deq.gov.mp.
URL: http://www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=71.

Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the U.S. Clean Water Act require that all states and territories, including the CNMI, monitor and assess all waters within the state and report the results to the public, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the U.S. Congress every two years. Prior to final submittal to USEPA and the U.S. Congress, public review is required and BECQ must address comments received by the public.

BECQ invites the public to review and provide comment on the 2020 Integrated Report, by submitting written comments in person to the BECQ office at the Gualo Rai Center on Middle Road (across from the Subway restaurant), by mail, or email.

Mailed comments should be addressed to Mr. Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP, 96950. Emailed comments should be written to: cnmi.waterquality@gmail.com.

Comments should contain the subject line "2020 IR Comments" or similar. All comments must be received by BECQ no later than October 16th, 2020, in order for the comments to be considered by BECQ in the preparation of the final Integrated Report.

REPORTED BY: /s/ Larry Maurin — DATE: 9/8/2020
WQS/NPS Manager

APPROVED BY: /s/ Jonathan I. Arriola — DATE: 9/8/2020
DEQ Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
DPW/SWMD20-RFP-007

SUBMISSION DATE: October 20, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Material Recovery and Recycling Operations Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL Conference is scheduled on **September 29, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE Solid Waste Transfer Station Conference Room Lower Base.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS October 8, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Nation

Fires without precedent rage in usually cool, wet Northwest

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP)—Numerous wildfires burned in Oregon's forested valleys and along the coast, destroying hundreds of homes and causing mass evacuations. Farther north, flames devoured buildings and huge tracts of land in Washington state.

Officials said the number of simultaneous fires and perhaps the damage caused was unprecedented. Several deaths were reported, including a 1-year-old boy in Washington state. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said communities have been "substantially destroyed" and warned there could be numerous fatalities.

Because of its cool, wet climate, the Pacific Northwest rarely experiences such intense fire activity. But climate change driven by human-caused greenhouse gases is expected to keep warming the region, with most models predicting drier summers, according to the College of the Environment at the University of Washington.

Brown said Oregon could see the greatest loss of life and property from wildfires in state history. The small towns of Phoenix and Talent in southern Oregon were heavily damaged. Another fire leveled most of the small farming town of Malden in eastern Washington — burning down the fire station, post office, City Hall and library.

In Washington state, a fire burned more than 480,000 acres of forest, brush and shrubland, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said Wednesday after a 30-minute tour of the fire area in Sumner, east of Tacoma.

Inslee said low humidity, high temperatures and winds combined to likely make the blaze one of "the most catastrophic fires we've had in the history of the state."

Fires erupted along Interstate 5 in Oregon, hitting towns and forcing a shutdown of the main freeway along the West Coast. U.S. Highway 101, the main coastal highway running through California, Oregon and Washington, was also impacted.

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

Available on January 1, 2021

LOCATION: As Mahetog (Currently Pacific Marine)

WAREHOUSE SPACE:
18,364 square feet

RATE PER SQ. FEET: 30 cents USD

CALL 285-2713

Evers has 'no regrets' about response to Kenosha shooting

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers said Wednesday that he has "no regrets" about how the state responded to protests that broke out in Kenosha following the police shooting of Jacob Blake.

Blake, who is Black, was shot seven times in the back by white Kenosha police officer Rusten Sheskey on Aug. 23, sparking three nights of protests and unrest that culminated with the shootings of three demonstrators by an armed civilian.

Evers called out the Wisconsin National Guard early the morning of Aug. 24. The Democratic governor turned down an offer made Aug. 25 from the White House to send federal U.S. Department of Homeland Security troops.

President Donald Trump criticized Evers' response, urging him to activate the National Guard after he had already done so.

"He made a pitch about, you know, 'We have to get the National Guard on the ground,'" Evers said. "I said, 'They already are. We've met every request.'"

A day later, after the shootings of three demonstrators, two of whom died, Evers again spoke with Trump and the governor said they agreed to have the White House send other federal assistance, including officers from the FBI and U.S. Marshals. A 17-year-old Trump supporter from Illinois is charged with shooting the demonstrators.

"To say that we could have done anything different as it relates to working with the White House, I have no regrets because the only thing I said no to was Homeland Security and I knew that would not work out because of what I saw in Portland," Evers said, referring to ongoing unrest in that Oregon city between protesters and federal troops.

During the unrest in Kenosha, an estimated $50 million in damage was caused to around 100 downtown businesses.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 I Fax: (670) 664-2408 I Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

RFQ20-GOV-116

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR A/E SERVICES FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF THE ROTA LANDFILL, SONGSONG VILLAGE, ROTA MP

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Capital Improvement Program, (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed proposals from Qualified Engineers/Consultants to provide engineering services for the Assessment and Preliminary design for the Rota Landfill in Tatagcho, Songsong Village, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant Funding under the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

Procurement procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at the Capital Improvement Office located in the Office of Management & Budget, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan or may request for a copy via email (attn.: Viola Deleon Guerrero at violamarie.cip@gmail.com) during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays) beginning September 14, 2020. Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the submittal requirements identified in the Scope of Work and submittal requirements. A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be conducted via zoom on **Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m ChST.** All interested parties must submit a notice of intent to participate in the pre-proposal conference by contacting Ms. Viola Deleon Guerrero @ violamarie.cip@gmail.com. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Ms. Viola Deleon Guerrero via email @ violamarie.cip@gmail.com or fax no. (670) 664-2408 no later than **4:00 p.m. ChST Friday, September 25, 2020.**

Selection of individuals or firms for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement & Supply, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify, firms must have a valid CNMI Business License, and be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and must hold a Certificate of Authorization, if applicable.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms and shall not exceed 20 pages excluding appendices. Only CNMI professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered for this project. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

A. Qualifications in the Western Pacific Region, and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands - (25%)
B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope - (30%)
C. Past performance on similar projects, including cost control, ability to meet schedules, and quality of completed construction - (30%)
D. Current workload and demonstrated ability to perform the project Scope of Work - (15%)
E. Fee - (0%)

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Qualifications statements must be sealed and marked "**RFQ20-GOV-116, ASSESSMENT AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR THE ROTAL LANDFILL**" For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) and must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP, **no later than 9:00 a.m., October 13, 2020.** Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to propose must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply **no later than 9:00 a.m., ChST, on October 13, 2020** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original, one (1) hard copy AND ONE (1) PDF ELECTRONIC COPY (Electronic copy must be in a flash drive) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country **no later than October 13, 2020**, and mailed to the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement and Supply by **no later than October 22, 2020**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS
(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

• Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)

• Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4235, 4396, 4404-MP
PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 664-2374 • Facsimile: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION FOR BIDS
ITB20-GOV-107

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Arnold I. Palacios, through the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), (collectively, "Commonwealth") is soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available for pick up at the Hazard Mitigation Office located at the Office of the Governor on Capitol Hill, Saipan beginning September 11, 2020. A non-refundable payment of $25.00 is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented at the Hazard Mitigation Office on Capitol Hill. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70,30,3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid meeting for this project on **Friday, September 25, 2020, 10:30 am ChST at the Hazard Mitigation Office Conference Room** with a **limit of two (2) people per company due to COVID-19 social distancing** located at the Office of the Governor, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Mr. Benjie Pangelinan in writing by e-mail to bpangelinan@omb.gov.mp or fax to (670) 664-2408 on or before Tuesday, September 29, 2020. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-107 Supply and Installation of Typhoon shutters at Various Government Buildings: Multi-Purpose Center, Department of Public Safety and Department of Labor.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:30 am ChST October 8, 2020.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:30 am, ChST October 8, 2020 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to a.magofna@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 8, 2020** and mailed to the Director of **Procurement and Supply at P.O. BOX 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950** and the bid documents must be received no later than **October 16, 2020.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, on Saipan at **10:30 am ChST, October 16, 2020.** However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:30 am ChST, October 8, 2020.**

Bids higher than Twenty-five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the proposal. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check, or other forms acceptable to the Government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety satisfactory to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the cheque: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Before the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue a bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond before executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) U.S. Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on U.S. Security Exchange
4) Real property owned in fee simple in the U.S.; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is 120 Calendar Days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be $100.00/day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

• ***Gratuities.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).

• ***Kickbacks.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b).

• ***Contingent Fees.*** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Asia

ASEAN talks tackle pandemic, sea feud amid US-China rivalry

AP

This image taken from video provided by VTV shows ASEAN foreign ministers watching Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, center, delivering a speech during the opening of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020.

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Southeast Asia's top diplomats held their annual talks by video Wednesday to discuss the immense crisis wrought by the coronavirus pandemic and rising tensions in the South China Sea amid the escalating rivalry between Washington and Beijing.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations ministerial meetings, delayed by a month, were held online due to continuing health risks posed by COVID-19. The 10-nation bloc's foreign ministers were to meet Asian and Western counterparts, including those from the U.S. and China, later in the week, capped by an annual security forum.

Vietnam is hosting the talks as this year's chairman of the diverse group. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc called for regional solidarity amid the headwinds in an austere opening ceremony attended by a few dozen diplomats in the capital, Hanoi.

"The valuable fruits of our cooperation are being tested in an environment full of volatility and unprecedented challenges, especially the COVID-19 pandemic," Phuc said.

The pandemic has delayed or canceled dozens of meetings and shut out the colorful ceremonies, group handshakes and photo-ops that have been the trademarks of ASEAN's annual gatherings.

The talks focused on combating the pandemic and ways to help member states recover economically. The contagion has devastated the region's manufacturing, export, travel and tourism industries and sparked the worst economic recessions in decades across the region of 650 million people.

Southeast Asian nations have been impacted by the pandemic differently, with hard-hit Philippines grappling with more than 245,000 confirmed COVID-19 infections, including nearly 4,000 deaths, and the tiny socialist state of Laos reporting just 22 cases. The Philippines and Indonesia each have more than double the infections reported by China, where the outbreak started late last year.

A senior Southeast Asian diplomat said a key project is establishing a COVID-19 response fund to help ASEAN member states buy medical supplies and protective suits. The diplomat said Thailand has pledged to contribute $100,000 and ASEAN partners, including China, Japan and South Korea, were expected to announce contributions.

A regional stockpile of medical supplies has also been approved, and a study to be financed by Japan will research the possibility of establishing an ASEAN center on public health emergencies, according to the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak publicly.

A long-thorny issue on the agenda is the territorial disputes in the South China Sea involving China, Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

When the territorial conflicts were discussed, "concerns were expressed by some ministers on the land reclamations, activities and serious incidents in the area which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region," the ministers said in a draft communique, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press.

In July, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that Washington regards virtually all of China's maritime claims in the disputed offshore region outside of its internationally recognized waters to be illegitimate. Although it remains neutral in territorial disputes, the Trump administration was in effect siding with the four ASEAN claimant states, along with Indonesia, which have opposed China's claims to virtually the entire waterway.

China then accused the U.S. of sowing discord in the strategic region and last month, its military reportedly test-fired two missiles in the South China Sea during exercises.

China has pushed for the resumption of negotiations with ASEAN on a code of conduct aimed at preventing armed clashes in the disputed waters. But Hoang Thi Ha of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore said major differences between China and rival claimant states would stymie any breakthrough or an early agreement.

China alleges Australia raided homes of Chinese reporters

BEIJING (AP)—Australian agents in June raided the homes of four journalists working for Chinese state media and seized their electronics, citing possible violations of Australia's anti-foreign interference law, China's foreign ministry said Wednesday.

There have been no previous reports about the alleged Australian actions. The accusation by ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian came one day after the last two Australian journalists working for Australian media left China for fear of detention and the Chinese foreign ministry announced Australian citizen Cheng Lei, a Chinese state media journalist, had been detained on suspicion of national security crimes.

There was no immediate Australian government comment on the allegation.

Zhao said the four Chinese journalists have since returned to China and denied any connection with the flight of the two Australian journalists, who took refuge in Australian diplomatic missions in China after agents barred them from leaving China and demanded they answer questions about Cheng's case.

China is Australia's biggest trading partner but relations have come under heavy strain after Australia outlawed covert interference in politics and banned Chinese communications giant Huawei from supplying critical infrastructure. They have worsened since the Australian government called for an independent inquiry into the origin of the coronaviraus pandemic and international responses to it.

Zhao said the four journalists represented Xinhua News Agency, China Central Radio, state broadcaster CCTV and China News Agency.

Their work computers, cellphones and "even children's tablets and electronic toys" were seized in the raids, Zhao told reporters at a daily news briefing.

"As far as I know, the Australian side has so far not given a reasonable explanation for the raid and has not returned all the items seized to the journalists," Zhao said.

He said China has lodged "solemn complaints with Australia."

"We urge the Australian side to immediately stop the barbarous and irrational behavior, stop using any excuses to harass and suppress the Chinese citizens in Australia, ensure their safety and legal rights and interests, and stop doing anything that would obstruct cultural exchanges between the two countries," Zhao said.

As Indonesia cases soar, medical workers bear the burden

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—While Indonesia has recorded more deaths from the coronavirus than any other Southeast Asian country, it also has seen by far the most fatalities among medical workers in the region, leading to concerns about the long-term impact on the nation's fragile healthcare system.

The tribulations endured by Indonesian healthcare workers are similar to others globally: long working hours, hospitals filled to capacity and a lack of resources like personal protective equipment.

Indonesia's government has been able to provide PPE to healthcare workers after an initial shortage that saw doctors wearing plastic raincoats while working. But other issues remain in the country, where more than 200 medical workers, mostly doctors and nurses, have died from the virus.

According to Dr. Halik Malik, spokesperson for the Indonesian Medical Association, coronavirus and non-coronavirus patients are often treated in the same healthcare facilities, increasing workers' potential exposure to the virus. Only workers who are treating known COVID-19 patients are provided virus testing for themselves, he said, noting that results are often delayed.

"We are worried that if positive cases in the community continue to increase, there will be many cases that cannot be handled properly," Malik said.

Indonesia on Tuesday surpassed 200,000 cases of the coronavirus, the second-highest tally in Southeast Asia after the Philippines, which has reported more than 241,000 infections. In all of Asia, Indonesia's death toll of 8,230 is second only to India, which has had over 73,000 fatalities.

At least 213 healthcare workers have died from COVID-19 in Indonesia, including 107 doctors and 74 nurses, according to the Indonesian Medical Association.

The Philippines, which has reported more than 3,900 deaths overall, has seen 33 of its medical workers die from the virus, second-most in the region. The only other Southeast Asian country with more than 100 overall deaths is Malaysia, with 128.

Indonesia also has one of the lowest numbers of doctors per capita in Southeast Asia, at just 4.27 per 10,000 people, according to the World Health Organization.

The deaths of so many of its doctors from COVID-19 will impact the country's healthcare workforce for years to come, said Nurul Nadia, a public health expert from the Center for Indonesia's Strategic Development Initiatives, an organization that focuses on health.

"Our health system is weak, the number of doctors is not ideal, the number of specialist doctors is very few and many have become victims of COVID-19 now," Nadia said.

And the spread of the virus is only getting worse across the vast archipelago nation of more than 270 million people.

According to the WHO, 66,420 cases were recorded in Indonesia in August alone, a 28% rise from July's total. While a majority of the cases were in East Java province and Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, several other places have emerged as new hot spots. The true number of cases is suspected to be significantly higher, as Indonesia continues to have one of the lowest testing rates in the world.

Yet businesses across the country continue to reopen. Bali, one of the country's largest tourism hubs, began welcoming domestic visitors on July 9. According to Bali Tourism Agency chief Putu Astawa, the island welcomed at least 78,000 domestic tourists in August. In Jakarta, many offices have reopened, contributing to a spike in cases in the sprawling city.

World

UK imposes new coronavirus restrictions for England

LONDON (AP)—The British government backed a series of measures Wednesday it hopes will stem a worrying increase in new coronavirus cases, particularly among young adults, including a legally enforced ban on any social gatherings of more than six people in England.

In the biggest reversal of the months-long easing of the lockdown, it said social gatherings in England will be limited to a maximum of six people, either inside or outside of the home. The new limit will be in place from Monday and police will be able to fine, and even arrest, anyone breaching the rules.

Among other measures, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said "COVID-secure marshals" will be introduced to help ensure social distancing in city centers and that border force officials will step up enforcement efforts to ensure arrivals are complying with the quarantine rules.

He also said that pubs and restaurants will have to take the contact details of all customers or face sanctions, and he put sports teams on notice that supporters may not return to stadiums in October as hoped.

"These measures are not another national lockdown," Johnson said at a media briefing behind a podium bearing the government's new slogan "Hands Face Space."

"The whole point of them is to avoid another national lockdown."

Acknowledging that the myriad of rules on gatherings have become "complicated and confusing," Johnson said more clarity was required in light of the recent sharp spike in cases in a country that has seen Europe's deadliest coronavirus outbreak.

"Now you only need to remember the 'rule of six,'" he said

The new limits on gatherings are set to be in place for months, a timescale that potentially dashes any hopes of large family gatherings during Christmas.

Johnson said he was "still hopeful" that a "moonshot" plan of mass testing—accompanied by results within minutes—could bring many aspects of life back to some sort of normality, even of ending the need for social distancing among those who test negative. He reiterated that the government was aiming for 500,000 daily tests by the end of October, more than double the current amount.

The new limit on gatherings follows a near doubling in new confirmed virus infections over the past week or so that government figures show has been largely seen among young adults, particularly those between the ages of 17 and 21. On Sunday and Monday, the number of daily laboratory-confirmed positive cases hit nearly 3,000. On Wednesday, a further 2,659 were announced.

Citing the example of Belgium, the government's chief medical officer said limits on gatherings can help prevent the spike in cases among young adults from seeping through to more vulnerable people, such as the elderly, in the run-up to winter.

"This is clear indication that if you act rapidly and decisively when these changes are happening, there is a reasonable chance, a good chance, to bring the rates back under control," Chris Whitty said.

"People shouldn't just see this as a very short term thing," he said.

Though there are exemptions, such as for schools, workplaces and "life events" like funerals and weddings, Johnson said he is hopeful the new limits will be easily understood and followed.

AP

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks during a virtual press conference at Downing Street, London, Wednesday Sept. 9, 2020, following the announcement that the legal limit on social gatherings is set to be reduced from 30 people to six.

Those flouting the rules could be fined—100 pounds ($130) for a first offense, and up to a potential 3,200 pounds (more than $4,000).

The other parts of the U.K.—Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland—haven't followed suit though they also have their own different limitations on gatherings.

UN: COVID-19 could fuel more conflict, poverty, starvation

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Top U.N. officials warned Wednesday that the COVID-19 pandemic has aggravated discrimination and other human rights violations that can fuel conflict, and its indirect consequences are dwarfing the impact of the virus itself in the world's most fragile countries.

U.N. political chief Rosemary DiCarlo and U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock painted a grim picture to the U.N. Security Council of the global impact of the pandemic that has blanketed the world, with over 26 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and more than 860,000 deaths.

Lowcock warned the council that the indirect economic and health effects from the crisis in fragile countries "will be higher poverty, lower life expectancy, more starvation, less education and more child death."

He said roughly a third of the cases and fatalities are in countries affected by humanitarian or refugee crises, or those facing high levels of vulnerability. But the full extent isn't known because testing in these fragile countries is very low and in some places many people are reluctant to seek help, perhaps fearing being quarantined or fearing they won't get useful medical treatment, he said.

"The better news is that it seems possible that the fatality rate from COVID-19 may be lower in these fragile countries than initially feared," he said, but the indirect impact is greater.

DiCarlo said Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' March 23 call for a global cease-fire to deliver life-saving aid during the pandemic had an encouraging initial response, with temporary truces announced from Colombia and Ukraine to the Philippines and Cameroon.

"However, many expired without extensions, resulting in little improvement on the ground," the undersecretary-general for political and peacebuilding affairs said.

Still, U.N. envoys are pursuing Guterres' call for peace negotiations and cease-fires in conflict-torn Yemen, Libya, Syria and elsewhere, DiCarlo said.

She said another potential driver of instability is people's perception that "authorities have not addressed the pandemic effectively or have not been transparent about its impact," adding that "reports of corruption related to COVID-19 responses are accentuating this trend."

As for growing human rights challenges during the pandemic, DiCarlo pointed to increased discrimination including in access to health services, surging violence against women particularly in the home during lock-downs, and "growing limitations being placed on the media, civic space and freedom of expression."

"Social media platforms are used to spread disinformation about the pandemic," DiCarlo said. "And there has been a rise in stigma and hate speech, especially against migrants and foreigners."

During the pandemic, U.N. peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix said the U.N.'s far-flung missions, with over 100,000 personnel, "continued to prevent and respond to threats to civilians, which have unfortunately not decreased in the past six months despite the secretary-general's global cease-fire call."

He singled out continued violence in Mali, Central African Republic and Congo.

Lacroix told the council the responses to COVID-19 have been criticized in some countries, "resulting in heightened political tensions in the areas of operation of some peacekeeping missions."

And he said the pandemic's impact has slowed down the implementation of peace agreements and transitions, pointing to South Sudan as an example.

Lowcock, the undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said the main indirect effects of the pandemic on fragile countries are economic—weakening commodity prices, declining remittances, disruptions to trade, and lockdown measures making it harder for people to survive, especially day laborers and many women.

The humanitarian chief said another important impact is on health and education, because in the most fragile countries people are vulnerable to killer diseases like measles, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs, and because infant mortality and the numbers of women losing their lives in childbirth are much higher than in better off countries.

A Mexican newspaper says a reporter slain, decapitated

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A newspaper reporter in Mexico's Gulf coast state of Veracruz was murdered and decapitated, his paper reported Wednesday.

The newspaper El Mundo in the city of Cordoba said the body of reporter Julio Valdivia was found near his motorcycle on railroad tracks in the town of Motzorongo.

Valdivia, who covered a rural zone near the border with Oaxaca state that has long been plagued by gang violence, was at least the sixth journalist to be killed in Mexico this year.

The Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the "terrible events" and issued an "urgent call" for authorities to identify those responsible.

In August, an independent journalist died in police custody in a Mexican border city. Juan Nelcio Espinoza had been arrested while covering a confrontation in the city of Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass, Texas.

Espinoza was reporting for his web page "El Valedor TV, " and was taken by police to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Authorities in the northern border state of Coahuila told local media that Espinoza and another man were arrested after engaging in a confrontation with polic, and that Espinoza choked to death.

More than 140 journalists have been killed in Mexico over the past 20 years.

Off The Wall

‘World’s loneliest elephant’ okayed to quit zoo for new life

ISLAMABAD (AP)—An elephant who has become a cause célèbre for animal rights activists around the world will be allowed to leave his Pakistani zoo and transferred to better conditions, the animal welfare group helping with the case said Saturday.

Dubbed the “world’s loneliest elephant” by his supporters, Kaavan has languished at a zoo in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad for more than 35 years.

Martin Bauer, a spokesman for Four Paws, said the elephant has been finally given medical approval to travel, most likely to Cambodia, where he will find companionship and better conditions.

The overweight elephant Kaavan underwent a full medical examination at the zoo on Friday, said Bauer.

In May, Pakistan’s High Court ordered the Marghazar Zoo closed because of its abysmal conditions blamed on systemic negligence.

Rescuing Kaavan from the zoo’s dire conditions attracted the attention of animal activists around the world, and celebrities including U.S. singer Cher, who lobbied for his relocation.

“Unfortunately, the rescue comes too late for two lions that died during an attempted transfer at the end of July after local animal handlers set a fire in their enclosure to force them into their transport crates,” Bauer said in a statement released on Saturday. He said Four Paws was invited by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board to safely transfer the remaining animals in the zoo. Kaavan has until now been forced to live a solitary life in a small enclosure.

Friday’s medical examination showed the elephant was overweight, even as he showed signs of malnutrition. His nails were cracked and overgrown apparently from years of living in an improper enclosure with flooring that damaged his feet.

“Following the checks, which confirmed Kaavan is strong enough, steps will now be taken to finalize his relocation to an animal sanctuary potentially in Cambodia,” Bauer said. His recovery will be a long one, said Bauer, adding that Kaavan’s wounds are more than just physical. He also suffers behavioral issues.

Kaavan, who lost his partner in 2012, has battled loneliness as well as poor living conditions. Both have taken their toll, said Bauer in an interview.

“He also developed stereotypical behavior, which means he shakes his head back and forth for hours. This is mainly because he is simply bored,” said Bauer. The Four Paws team that carried out Kaavan’s physical included wildlife veterinarians and experts. It wasn’t immediately known when Kaavan would be able to travel. Rights activists have lobbied for his relocation since 2016.

A veterinary from the international animal welfare organization ‘Four Paws’ offers comfort to an elephant named ‘Kaavan’ prior to his examination at the Maragzar Zoo in Islamabad, Pakistan, Friday, Sept. 4, 2020. AP

Dog’s bark saved Alabama family as fire swept through home

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—A dog has been credited with saving an Alabama family’s lives after his bark awakened them to a fire that was sweeping through their rental home early Tuesday morning. The dog, Ralph, “doesn’t usually make a sound at night,” said Derek Walker, who lived in the Birmingham home with his wife and two children, according to AL.com. So when Walker heard a “different kind of bark” coming from Ralph, a 4-year-old Great Dane, he got up to investigate. That’s when he saw the fire outside the family’s kitchen window.

The blaze had started on a grill and spread to the home, according to Robert Lawson, a battalion chief with the North Shelby Fire Department.“I just started screaming ‘fire’ to get everybody up,” Walker said. “My wife got up and she got our daughter and got her out.” After getting their daughter out of the house, his wife went into the home again to get their son. He had been fast asleep while his bedroom was full of smoke. “The fire was right outside his wall,” Walker said. “He wasn’t awake because he sleeps covered with his blanket.”

Walker stepped inside the house to get Ralph, who was in his kennel, and the family’s two miniature pigs.The hero, Ralph, made it out alive. One of the pigs also got out but the other, Pearl, died.

The home has suffered heavy fire damage and most of the family’s belongings have perished. But, they are thankful for the furry member of the family.

“Without Ralph, I don’t think we would have made it,” Walker said.

Voter bares arms, and more, after anti-Trump shirt is nixed

EXETER, N.H. (AP)—A voter who was told she couldn’t wear an anti-Trump shirt at a polling place because it violated electioneering rules simply whipped it off and did her civic duty topless.

The woman walked into a polling place in Exeter, New Hampshire, on Tuesday’s primary election wearing a “McCain Hero, Trump Zero” T-shirt. Town moderator Paul Scafidi told her she couldn’t wear a shirt featuring a political candidate while she voted, Seacoastonline.com reported in a story that did not identify the woman.

No person “shall distribute, wear, or post at a polling place any campaign material,” according to state law. People who are convicted can be fined as much as $1,000. Neither Trump nor McCain, who died in 2018, were on Tuesday’s ballot, which featured races for governor and Congress.

The woman pointed out that another woman nearby was wearing a T-shirt in support of the American flag, Scafidi said. He answered that an American flag was not electioneering and that the “Trump Zero” shirt would have to be covered.

So the woman asked if he wanted her to take her shirt off. She wasn’t wearing anything underneath. “I said I’d rather she not,” Scafidi said. “But she took it off so fast, no one had time to react. So the whole place just went, ‘whoa,’ and she walked away, and I let her vote.”

He noted that she could have just gone into the hallway and turned it inside out. After voting, Scafidi said, the woman put her shirt back on and left. There were about 15 other voters around, Scafidi said, and he didn’t notice any children present.

Scafidi could have had her removed for violating the state indecency law, he said, but he didn’t want to inflame the situation further, and “we had more important things to worry about; we had to get 2,000 people to vote safely, and check-in and count 2,000 absentee ballots.”

†Cypriana Faustina Taitano Kapileo

Lovingly known as “Ponce, Prana”
Born to life on NOVEMBER 10, 1993 | Called to Eternal life on SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

In her new Life, Prana will be met at the gates of Heaven by her:

Father: †Canice Quitugua Kapileo
Maternal Grandparents: †Rita Sablan and †Augustine Igitol Taitano
Paternal Grandparents: †Faustina Quitugua and †Felipe Misuk Kapileo
Aunts & Uncles: †Julita T. Palacios, †Venicia T. Suel, †Juan Q. Kapileo, †Antonio Q. Kapileo, †Julita S. Kapileo, †Singeru Techur

Cousins: †Maria Teresa Risa Taitano, †Singeru Techur, Jr., †Leonisa Techur, †Peter Techur, †Dean Anthony Q. Kapileo, †Julia S. Kapileo, †Jay Eric S. Kapileo

Nephew & Nieces: †Alandadonn K. Malwelbug, †Kirsten Tenseley T. Techur, †Kristina Edwina K. Malwelbug, †Tiana K. Malwelbug, †Angel A. Kapileo

Her loving memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Mother: Veronica Esther (Noning) Taitano Kapileo

Brothers & Sister: Jocelyn Aldan & **Kevin Lee** T. Kapileo (Zoshanny D’AnaLeigh, Ri’Onica Ikepela), **Josephine Christine** T. Kapileo & Danny Joe O. Fitial (Autumn Renea), **Nunu Kuke** T. Kapileo

Godchildren: Julia Faustina Ayuyu Kapileo, Neo Jarett M. Kapileo, Zoschanny D’AnaLeigh Aldan Kapileo

Maternal Aunts & Uncles: Pedro S. Taitano & Danila S. Norita, Mi Sim Jeong & Diego Palacios, Maryann T. & Juan Mendiola, Emilly N. & Joseph S. Taitano, Elaine T. & Henry Iguel, Daniel Suel

Paternal Aunts & Uncles: Dionicia K. Techur, Pauline DLG. & Luis Q. Kapileo, Jacinta Q. Kapileo, Anna Q. Kapileo, Ignacia K. & Ferdous Bhuiyan, Esther K. & Felipe Q. Kapileo, Teresa P. & Joseph Q. Kapileo, Jesus Q. Kapileo, Ursula A. & Fabian Nick Q. Kapileo

Numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends will miss her dearly.

Mass is being offered at Bithen Delos Remedios Church, Tanapag, at 6:00 p.m. from September 7-12, 2020 and at 7:00 a.m. on September 13, 2020.

On Monday, September 14, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. she will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel to the Bithen Delos Remedios Church. Viewing will begin immediately followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. and then our beloved Prana will be laid to rest at theTanapag Public Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated. Si Yu’us Ma’ase, Ghilisou, Kinisou Chapur, and Thank you.

Veronica Esther (Noning) T. Kapileo,
Children, grandchildren

Science & Technology

Bring in the experts: It's time to secure your home network

By FRANK BAJAK
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Not all that long ago, managing your home network's security didn't involve much more than installing an antivirus program on your PC. If only it were still so simple.

It's no longer just about protecting the computer on which you may be working from home and the laptops the kids may be using as online school starts. Odds are good you've got a few other internet-connected devices around the house -- phones, tablets, game consoles, maybe a "smart" TV or thermostat or refrigerator or light bulb or kid's toy or security camera or video-streaming gadget or voice-activated digital valet.

The average U.S. home now has 11 such devices, according to Deloitte, many of which are vulnerable to hacking. If you don't want cyber cat burglars traipsing across them, potentially spreading malware or ransomware as they go, you'll want to secure your entire home network.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

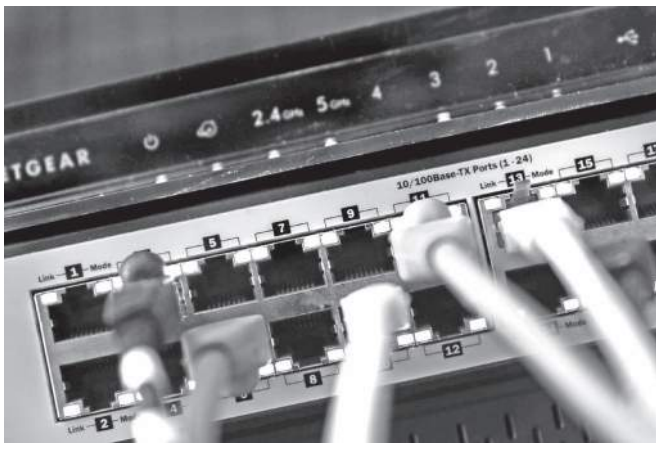
Home networks are a major target for cybercriminals, who use innocuous smart gadgets as stepping stones to loot data from PCs and phones. Or they may co-opt these simpler devices into much larger "botnets" that can be used to wreak havoc across the internet.

On average, one in three internet connections from home networks are made through devices other than computers or phones, so there's lots of opportunity for mischief if you don't lock your virtual windows to the networked world.

You can do it yourself, but that can be a lot of work, and the potential consequences of any mistakes could be significant. For most people, it makes better sense to pay for a network-protection service, whether offered by your internet provider or another business. Though it will cost you.

HOW DOES THIS WORK?

Think of your home network as a bunch of cans tied to each other with strings. Those are all your in-house devices and the data they share with each other.



In this June 19, 2018, file photo a router and internet switch are displayed in East Derry, N.H. AP

Now picture each of those cans tied to thousands of other strings outside your home. They are data connections your devices routinely make to other devices on the global internet. It's beyond our capacity to constantly monitor all those connections. We need help.

A good network-security service sets up firewalls to block unwanted data traffic, but it doesn't stop there. Since firewalls are imperfect, it will also monitor network traffic using artificial intelligence to detect unusual patterns. It keeps an eye on both your devices and malicious internet domains, alerting you to potential threats and blocking suspicious websites.

Typically, you'll be able to configure your security and respond to alerts from a laptop or phone. Providers let you block unauthorized users and websites from connecting to your home gadgets. Parents can also often use these services to set rules on the websites kids can visit and limits on screen time.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS COST? IS IT WORTH IT?

Internet providers now frequently offer security suites if you rent your modem or router from them. From Comcast, it costs $14 a month. Verizon charges fiber-optic FiOS subscribers $25/month but provides it for free with its premium gigabit plan.

If you recently bought your own router, security may come as a free trial and then a subscription. Or you can buy a separate service or standalone security appliance. Figure on paying about $100 a year.

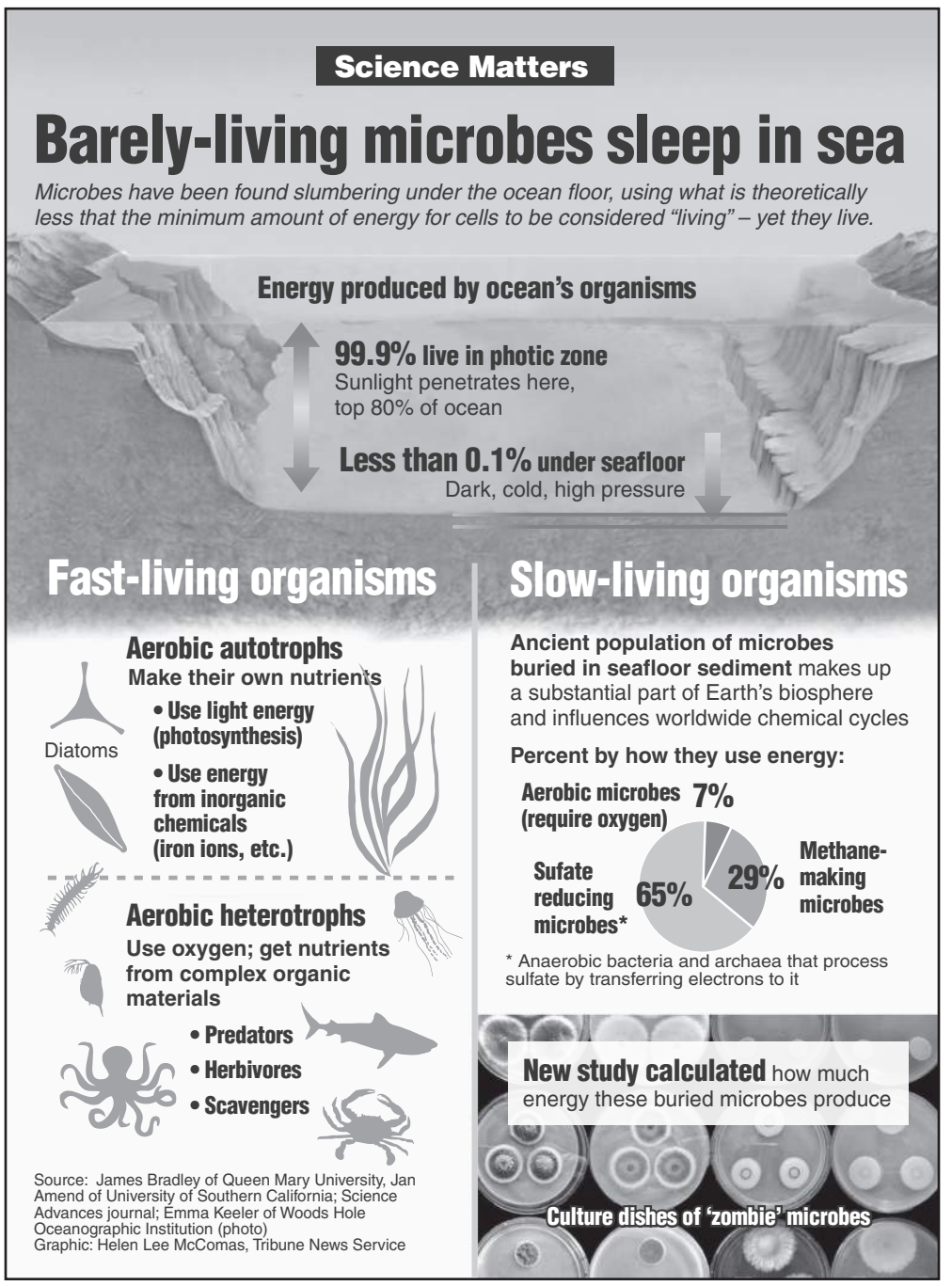
"Most consumers don't have the necessary know-how as to how to secure their home network," says Michael Philpott, a connected-home analyst with the Omedia tech research firm. "The only real option is to have a central solution that can monitor all connected devices."

Philpott says he's personally happy to pay a little extra for the peace of mind.

Start by checking out the service provided by your broadband provider or the maker of your router. Is the software easy to set up and to use? Check which security firm supplies the underlying security tools; Bitdefender, F-Secure, McAfee and Trend Micro are among industry leaders.

It's also possible to buy network-security kits directly from security companies, though you'll typically pay more for an extra monitoring device you'll add to your network. These often include anti-malware software for computers and phones.

Look for software that also lets you create two separate "virtual" home networks." Reserve one for work computers and networked data storage and use the other for smart TVs and speakers.


Science Matters
Barely-living microbes sleep in sea
Microbes have been found slumbering under the ocean floor, using what is theoretically less that the minimum amount of energy for cells to be considered "living" – yet they live.
Energy produced by ocean's organisms
99.9% live in photic zone
Sunlight penetrates here, top 80% of ocean
Less than 0.1% under seafloor
Dark, cold, high pressure
Fast-living organisms
Slow-living organisms
Aerobic autotrophs
Make their own nutrients
• Use light energy (photosynthesis)
• Use energy from inorganic chemicals (iron ions, etc.)
Diatoms
Aerobic heterotrophs
Use oxygen; get nutrients from complex organic materials
• Predators
• Herbivores
• Scavengers
Ancient population of microbes buried in seafloor sediment makes up a substantial part of Earth's biosphere and influences worldwide chemical cycles
Percent by how they use energy:
Aerobic microbes (require oxygen) 7%
Sufate reducing microbes* 65%
29% Methane-making microbes
* Anaerobic bacteria and archaea that process sulfate by transferring electrons to it
New study calculated how much energy these buried microbes produce
Culture dishes of 'zombie' microbes
Source: James Bradley of Queen Mary University, Jan Amend of University of Southern California; Science Advances journal; Emma Keeler of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (photo)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

What to do if you can't copy your iPhone photos

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: I have an iPhone 6 that has no storage left for photos. To avoid paying for extra photo storage space on iCloud, Apple's online service, I tried to copy my iPhone photos to my computer. But I discovered that I can only copy the last three years of photos. What's wrong?

A: The older photos aren't on your phone, but there's another way to recover them.

Why are the older photos be missing? You have probably turned on "optimize iPhone storage" in your phone's settings. (See tinyurl.com/y2njz5mn and scroll down to "Store your photos and videos in iCloud.) If your iPhone runs low on storage space, the optimize feature automatically uploads the oldest photos from your phone to your free 5 gigabytes of iCloud storage space, then deletes those older photos from the phone. Newer photos remain on the phone.

You wouldn't know this has happened, because when iCloud deletes older photos from your phone it leaves behind "thumbnail" versions of the pictures that appear in your camera roll. It isn't until you try to transfer those old photos to your computer that you discover they are missing.

This also causes another problem. The optimize feature has been working so long that your 5 gigabytes of iCloud storage are filled up with old photos. That means the optimize feature can no longer offload pictures from your phone to iCloud, and that has caused your iPhone to run out of storage space.

But you can solve all these problems. First, copy all the newer photos from your phone to your computer. After you have done that, delete those photos from your phone to free up storage space. Now download all your older photos from iCloud.com to your iPhone (see tinyurl.com/yxa7efs6 and scroll down to "Download photos and videos"), copy them to your computer and then delete them from your iPhone. Depending on how many old photos you have, you may need to do this more than once.

You now have all your photos stored on your computer, your iPhone has plenty of storage space available and your iCloud storage space is empty (everything deleted from the phone is also deleted from iCloud). The empty iCloud space will enable "optimize iPhone storage" to work again.

Q: My Toshiba laptop has bubbles in the liquid around the edge of the screen. In addition, two black and three red vertical lines have appeared on the screen. What can I do?

A: The bubbles indicate that the screen's seal has broken, and that air has become trapped between the screen's glass outer layer and its LCD (liquid crystal display) inner layer. The only fix for that is to replace the screen ($60 plus the labor to install it).

The vertical lines could be caused by outdated display driver software, which helps the screen "talk" to the PC. Go to tinyurl.com/y5atppg2 and download the free "Driver Update Utility for Toshiba."

The lines also could be caused by a flaw in the $10 cable that connects the laptop's screen to the PC's main circuit board. The cable can become worn or cracked near the hinges that allow you to open and close the laptop. Have a repair shop check the cable.

Life & Style

Disney criticized for filming 'Mulan' in China's Xinjiang

DISNEY VIA AP
This image released by Disney shows Yifei Liu in the title role of "Mulan."

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Disney is under fire for filming part of its live-action reboot "Mulan" in Xinjiang, the region in China where the government has been accused of human rights abuses against Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities.

The final credits in the film, which was released on Disney Plus last week and is being rolled out in several countries this month, thank propaganda departments in Xinjiang and the public security bureau of Turpan, a Uighur-majority city in the region.

Human rights activists and some China experts have taken to social media to condemn Disney for turning a blind eye to alleged abuses in Xinjiang. They accuse the American enterprise of kowtowing to China for access to its lucrative movie market, the second-largest in the world.

Amnesty International tweeted a link to a media report on the controversy and asked Disney, "Can you show us your human rights due diligence report?" A Washington Post opinion contributor called the movie a scandal, and one widely shared tweet suggested the Mulan crew would have seen "re-education camps" for Uighurs en route to filming locations.

Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities in the remote Xinjiang region have been locked up in camps as part of a government assimilation campaign launched in response to decades of sometimes violent struggle against Chinese rule. Some have been subjected to forced sterilization and abortion, and in recent months, ordered to drink traditional Chinese medicines to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

Chinese authorities defend the camps as job training centers, though former detainees describe them as prison-like facilities where they were humiliated, beaten and deprived of food.

"There is no so-called re-education camp in Xinjiang," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said when asked about the Mulan controversy on Tuesday. "The establishment of the vocational education and training centers in Xinjiang is a positive attempt and active exploration of preventive counterterrorism and deradicalization. ... There have been no violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang for more than three years."

Joe Exotic formally requests pardon, maintains innocence

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A former Oklahoma zookeeper sentenced to 22 years in prison for his role in a murder-for-hire plot and violating federal wildlife laws has formally requested a pardon.

Attorneys for Joseph Maldonado-Passage, also known as "Joe Exotic," filed his application Tuesday with the U.S. Department of Justice. In it, attorneys for Maldonado-Passage, 57, say he maintains his innocence and that he was "railroaded and betrayed" by others.

"Joseph is scheduled to be released from (Bureau of Prisons) custody in 2037; however, with his comprised health, he will likely die in prison," attorneys wrote in the 257-page application. "He humbly requests a pardon to correct the injustices he has experienced and to have the opportunity to return to providing meaningful contributions to his community."

The application also includes several character affidavits, letters of support and various trial documents. A spokeswoman for the Department of Justice said it would be premature to comment on the application.

Kevin Hart to host famed telethon long hosted by Jerry Lewis

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Hart will host the return of a popular telethon once spearheaded by the late Jerry Lewis to fight muscular dystrophy.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association announced Wednesday that Hart will host the MDA Kevin Hart Kids Telethon. The two-hour, star-studded virtual fundraiser event will air Oct. 24.

Celebrity guests will include Michael B. Jordan, Eva Longoria, Jack Black, Usain Bolt, Josh Gad and Jillian Mercado, who was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child.

Hart said the telethon's return is an "incredible opportunity" to bring back the work of Lewis, who helped make the Labor Day Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon a television tradition for decades. Lewis died from natural causes in 2017.

Lewis was known as the ringmaster of the MDA telethons, which raised billions of dollars with his support since the 1960s, including more than $60 million in 2009.

Lewis stepped down as host in 2011 and the association held its last telethon three years later.

'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' will end in 2021

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Who do we keep up with now? After more than a decade, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" will be ending its run next year.

"It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye" to the reality show, Kim Kardashian West and other members of the extended Kardashian-Jenner family said in a statement Tuesday.

"We've decided as a family to end this very special journey," said their social media statement, without further explanation about the move.

The series became a pop culture sensation and gave rise to a new kind of fame born of reality TV. It also was the launch pad for several family members' fashion and beauty business empires and led to Kardashian West's surprising reinvention as a social justice crusader and aspiring lawyer.

"We are beyond grateful to all of you who've watched us for all of these years —through the good times, the bad times, the happiness, the tears, and the many relationships and children," the family said.

Besides Kardashian West, others names attached to the statement were Kris, Kendall and Kylie Jenner; Kourtney, Khloe and Rob Kardashian, and Scott Disick.

The announcement comes as Kanye West pursues an independent run for the U.S. presidency, representing what he said is the Birthday Party. Kardashian West's husband has faced questions about his emotional state after a rocky campaign kickoff event in South Carolina.

McBride, Wilkerson among nominees for Kirkus Prize

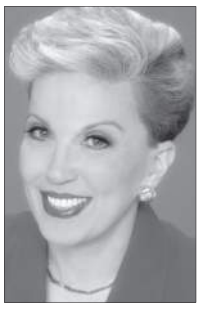
NEW YORK (AP)—Elena Ferrante, James McBride and Isabel Wilkerson are among the nominees for the Kirkus Prize, a $50,000 honor for the best fiction, nonfiction and children's books.

The nominees, six each in the three categories, were chosen by panels of writers, critics, booksellers and librarians. They were announced Wednesday by the trade publication Kirkus Reviews.

In fiction, Ferrante was cited for her novel "The Lying Life of Adults," translated from Italian by Ann Goldstein, and McBride for "Deacon King Kong," an Oprah Winfrey book club pick. Other nominees were Tola Rotimi's "Black Sunday," Juliana Delgado Lopera's "Fiebre Tropical," Douglas Stuart's "Shuggie Bain" and Raven Leilani's "Luster."

Dealing with ex-girlfriends causes man consternation

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: What is acceptable after a breakup occurs? Several years ago, I reached out to an ex-girlfriend. We had dated for six months, but she broke up with me to take a job in another state. A year later, I heard through mutual friends that she had recently moved back. I didn't call or text, but I did send an email asking how she was doing and if she'd like to talk.

She completely freaked out! She threatened to get a restraining order and told many of our mutual friends that I had been stalking her for a year. From that experience I learned never to contact an ex-girlfriend if they initiate the breakup.

Fast-forward: I recently ran into another ex-girlfriend who initiated the breakup. She told me that for an entire year after that breakup she hoped I would call her and, when I didn't, it proved I had never loved her. Abby, I feel like I can't win. It's similar to how some women say they won't let a guy kiss them unless they ask first, and others say if a guy asks, he's a wimp and they would refuse. As a man, I feel like I'm in an impossible position. No matter what I do, half the women on the planet will either view it as too aggressive or too passive. Help!
CONFOUNDED IN OREGON

DEAR CONFOUNDED: Welcome to reality. Accept that no matter what you do, you can't please everyone. If the only contact you had with that first ex-girlfriend was ONE email after her return to your city, then she was either grandstanding to get attention or it was a symptom of emotional instability. As to your second ex, men with self-esteem rarely call back after being rejected because once is enough.

Please don't let those two "dolls" sour you on all women. As you know, the #MeToo movement has highlighted the importance of consent. Asking a woman before you make a move is always prudent.

DEAR ABBY: I have struggled with my weight for years. My husband doesn't eat sweets, but we have a friend who insists on dropping off trays of dozens of cupcakes, candies, cookies, etc. I appreciate the time, money and effort, but I'm finally on an eating program that's working for me. I told her (nicely) that while I appreciate her gesture, I can't be trusted alone with such goodies, so please share them with folks who have better self-control. Well! She swore at me and told me to lose her number.

To say the least, I was shocked. Abby, I was as gentle and appreciative as could be. I explained that I have a problem and I'm the only one here who indulges in such foods. Was I wrong? What gives? I would donate them, but since I have a problem with sweets, I prefer not to have them in my house.
SWEET LOVE/HATE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SWEET: You did nothing wrong; you did yourself an important favor. That woman is not only not a friend, but she is also someone who cares nothing about your health and well-being. She is a "saboteur" with a vested interest in keeping you heavy.

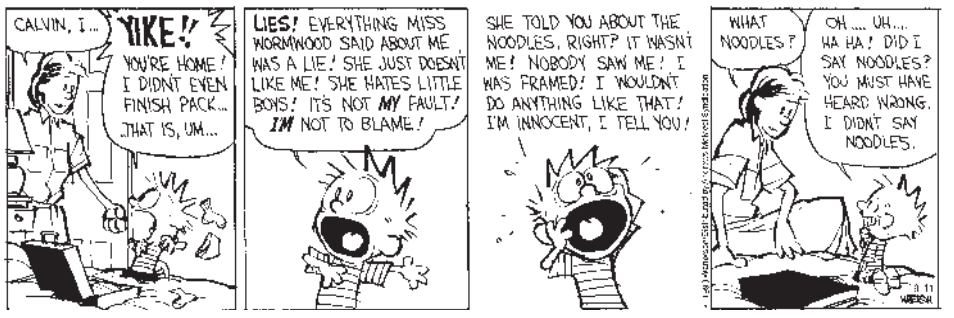
I admire your determination to take a stand on behalf of your eating program and your health. It took courage, and I applaud you for doing it. Sadly, too many people are afraid to do what you did.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, I...
YIKE!
YOU'RE HOME! I DIDN'T EVEN FINISH PACK... THAT IS, UM...
LIES! EVERYTHING MISS WORMWOOD SAID ABOUT ME WAS A LIE! SHE JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME! SHE HATES LITTLE BOYS! ITS NOT MY FAULT! IM NOT TO BLAME!
SHE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE NOODLES, RIGHT? IT WASN'T ME! NOBODY SAW ME! I WAS FRAMED! I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT! I'M INNOCENT, I TELL YOU!
WHAT NOODLES?
OH.... UH... HA HA! DID I SAY NOODLES? YOU MUST HAVE HEARD WRONG. I DIDN'T SAY NOODLES.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

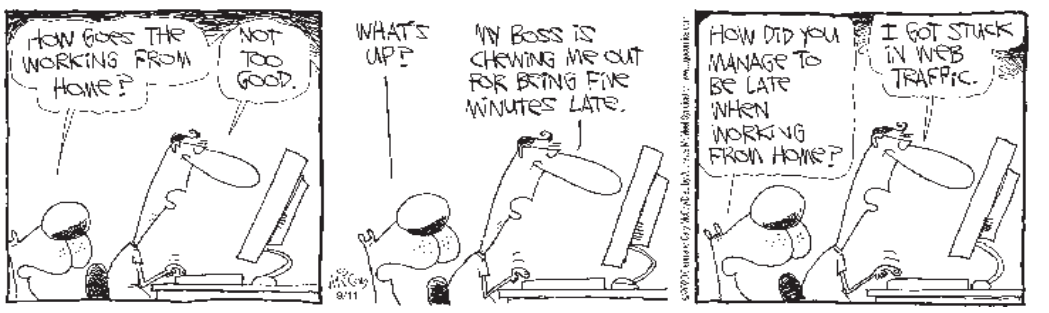
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SON, YOUR NAME IS CARLTON. NOT CLAYTON. STOP PLAYING GAMES.
WELL, I... I MEAN, MAYBE I...
NO! NO! MY NAME IS CLAYTON! MOM'LL BACK ME UP!
MOM!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CARLTON?
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HOW GOES THE WORKING FROM HOME?
NOT TOO GOOD.
WHAT'S UP?
MY BOSS IS CHEWING ME OUT FOR BEING FIVE MINUTES LATE.
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO BE LATE WHEN WORKING FROM HOME?
I GOT STUCK IN WEB TRAFFIC.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

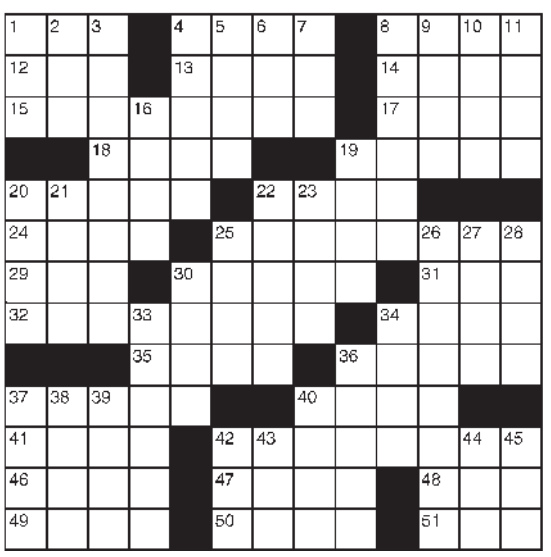
ACROSS
1 "Today" rival, briefly
4 Luau entertainment
8 Bee's home
12 A billion years
13 Norse god
14 Scored 100 on
15 Tedium
17 Existed
18 Mideast gulf
19 Composer Copland
20 Mushroom variety
22 Sitcom pioneer Arnaz
24 "Fernando" group
25 Comfortably soft
29 Kanga's kid
30 Form
31 Lucy of "Elementary"
32 Rite
34 Rocker Jagger
35 Hoodwink
36 Covers with blacktop
37 Parsley piece
40 Gospel singer Winans
41 Amorphous mass
42 Beethoven's "Eroica," for one
46 Snitch
47 Cambodia neighbor
48 "May — excused?"
49 Shopper's delight
50 Prefix meaning "all"
51 Napkin's place

DOWN
1 Tiara sparkler
2 Cow's comment
3 Michigan city
4 "Monopoly" buy
5 Japanese noodle
6 Architect Maya
7 Whatever amount
8 Aloha State
9 Cake finisher
10 — Beach, Fla.
11 Paradise
16 Classic theaters
19 Queens stadium name
20 Artist Chagall
21 Slender woodwind
22 Gregg Allman's brother
23 Catch sight of
25 Karate blow
26 Salad dressing ingredient
27 Pleasing
28 Guffaws
30 Overconfident
33 Safe to consume
34 Jet speed measure
36 Coke alternative
37 LAPD ranks
38 Entreaty
39 Hamburger holder
40 "Let's go!"
42 — -mo (replay speed)
43 Candied veggie
44 Cagers' gp.
45 "Uh-huh"

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	E	B		C	H	I		A	G	R	A	
E	L	I	A		R	U	N		C	O	O	R
P	L	O	Y		I	M	S		I	C	W	A
T	E	S	L	A	S		T	O	E	D		
			E	M	P	T	Y	S	L	I	T	S
S	T	R	A	P		O	L	E		D	I	I
A	S	I	F		R	Y	E		Y	E	L	P
L	A	G		H	E	O		S	E	A	L	S
T	R	A	C	K	S	U	I	T	S			
		T	H	O	J		S	Y	D	N	E	Y
I	G	O	R		M	P	S		E	I	N	E
T	O	N	I		E	M	L		A	N	Y	A
C	B	I	S		S	S	E		H	E	A	R

Yesterday's answer 9-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nazanin Mandi, 34; Taraji P. Henson, 50; Harry Connick Jr., 53; Scott Patterson, 62.

Happy Birthday: Searching for a new way to venture into the pastimes you enjoy will be tricky, but if you use your imagination this year, you will discover that nothing is impossible. Where there is a will, there is a solution. Set new standards, and start trends that lean toward a healthy and risk-free lifestyle. What you achieve will be welcomed by those less innovative. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 25, 33, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a moment to assess situations before you get involved. An emotional incident will require diplomatic action if you want to avoid repercussions. Don't overreact or believe everything you hear. Get the facts before you make a decision. Romance is favored. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take better care of your health and well-being. Approach situations involving friends or relatives with compassion and understanding. Gather background information before you make suggestions. Knowledge is power and will encourage others to be honest. A change is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Someone will mislead you regarding the risk factor involved in a protest or gathering without taking the necessary precautions. Put health first, and make suggestions that make you feel more comfortable. Choose intelligence vs desire. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be reticent regarding your thoughts, opinions and feelings. It's better to say nothing than to send the wrong message. Sitting back and observing what others do and say will be important in helping you make the best decision. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't fold under pressure or take on someone else's battles. Focus on making smart decisions that help you get ahead. A little charm will go a long way when dealing with romantic matters. Peace and love are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change of plans will make it easier for you to finish what you start. Don't be disappointed by someone's inability to deliver; step up, take over and turn a negative into a positive. More significant opportunities are yet to come. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take stock of what you have, consider what you need and prepare to donate what you no longer use. It will make you feel good if you declutter your life. Keeping things simple and doable will give you peace of mind. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Settle into something you enjoy doing. Time spent developing something you want to pursue will be a good investment. Align yourself with people who stimulate artistic and personal growth. Branch out, and do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Questions will arise over emotional matters. Look for the truth. Someone will offer a false impression or overview of a situation. Do your due diligence before making a decision. Impulsive action will lead to a loss. Avoid risky situations. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your temper under control. Look at situations carefully, and you'll find the best way to bring about positive change without overspending. Stick to the truth, and question anything that sounds suspicious. A lifestyle change will lead to an unexpected opportunity. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight, and work with what you have. Stick to what you know you can handle, and don't take on someone else's responsibilities. Uncertainty regarding a partnership will come down to cost. Don't get involved in something you can't afford. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll develop an innovative way to help a worthwhile cause. The changes you make will influence how you move forward professionally. The balance between home and work will be a deciding factor in the direction you choose to take. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, inventive and adaptable. You are productive and helpful.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8	1			4		9
		4	2			
3						7
	1		8	5	3	
			9			
	5		2	7	4	
5						1
		5	9			
1	7			3		8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	4	1	5	6	8	9	3
8	1	9	2	4	3	7	6	5
3	5	6	9	7	8	2	4	1
2	4	8	7	6	1	5	3	9
6	3	5	8	9	4	1	2	7
9	7	1	5	3	2	4	8	6
5	8	3	6	2	7	9	1	4
1	6	7	4	8	9	3	5	2
4	9	2	3	1	5	6	7	8

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

REGIS PHILBIN (1931-2020) Solution: 11 letters

A	C	H	A	T	S	N	E	W	Y	O	R	K	P	R
U	S	R	O	B	H	G	I	E	N	P	L	A	A	I
T	E	R	O	P	F	R	A	N	C	I	S	T	S	P
H	R	B	U	O	O	R	S	S	V	S	S	H	I	A
O	O	O	O	O	N	H	E	E	W	E	E	I	M	N
R	T	Ⓣ	Ⓢ	Ⓞ	Ⓗ	E	S	O	R	N	M	E	O	O
E	C	N	A	A	K	E	R	I	A	U	A	L	N	I
F	A	L	I	N	N	D	A	V	B	T	G	E	A	S
I	N	Y	A	E	A	N	Y	L	L	E	K	E	C	I
N	E	Y	S	N	O	K	A	N	T	I	C	S	I	V
N	M	Y	I	I	N	M	C	O	W	E	L	L	R	E
E	O	E	L	A	Y	Y	E	O	J	Y	M	M	E	L
J	L	L	R	E	I	V	A	X	N	O	R	B	M	E
G	I	F	F	O	R	D	W	O	H	S	K	L	A	T
M	F	A	Y	L	E	N	O	T	R	E	D	A	M	E

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 9/11

Actor, Album, American, Amy, Antics, Author, Bishop, Book, Bronx, Chats, Cowell, Crooner, Daniel, Emmy, Faylen, Filomena, Francis, Frank, Games, Gifford, Host, Hours, Jennifer, Joanna, Joey, Joy Senese, Kathie Lee, Kelly, Live, Millionaire, Navy, Neighbors, New York, Notre Dame, Password, Ripa, Simon, Star, Talk Show, Television, Xavier, Yankees

Yesterday's Answer: Act of God

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Raptors survive Celtics in 2OT, force Game 7

FLORIDA (AP)—The Toronto Raptors faced a sizable early deficit. They trailed in the fourth quarter. And again in the first overtime. And again in the second overtime.

Exhausted and on the brink, the reigning NBA champions rose to the moment.

Next up: Game 7, for a spot in the Eastern Conference finals against Miami.

OG Anunoby—the hero of Game 3 with a buzzer-beating 3 -- put the Raptors ahead to stay with a 3-pointer with just under a minute left in double overtime, Kyle Lowry got an acrobatic jumper to fall with 11.7 seconds left and the Raptors beat the Boston Celtics 125-122 in Game 6 on Wednesday night.

"Game 7 to go to the Eastern Conference finals," Toronto guard Fred VanVleet said. "All you can ask for is a chance."

Lowry scored 33 points in 53 minutes for Toronto. Norman Powell had 23, including a three-point play with about 39 seconds left and a pair of free throws to help finish it off. VanVleet scored 21 points for the Raptors, and Anunoby had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Lowry was on his back, laying on the court, breathing fairly heavily and with his fists thrown high in the air when Powell had the three-point play.

That's about when he realized the Raptors weren't flying home Thursday.

"Thank you, Norm. ... That was cool. We needed that," Lowry said.

Jaylen Brown had 31 points and 16 rebounds for the Celtics, who had their starters on the floor—without a single sub—for the final 22-plus minutes.

Jayson Tatum had 29 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists. Marcus Smart had 23 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, and missed a 3-pointer that would have tied it with about 3 seconds left in the second extra session.

AP

Boston Celtics center Daniel Theis (27) tries to shoot over Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) during the second half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

"We had a lot of opportunities down the stretch and we didn't take care of the all as good as we needed to," Brown said. "That's fine. We're heading into a Game 7. We feel good about ourselves."

It was the first time that a team went multiple overtimes and won to stave off elimination in a best-of-seven series since April 30, 2009—when Chicago forced Game 7 by beating Boston 128-127 in triple OT. The Celtics went on to win Game 7.

Daniel Theis had 18 points for the Celtics. Theis played 47 minutes—the other four Boston starters, Tatum, Smart, Brown and Kemba Walker (who was held to five points, in large part because of the box-and-one that Toronto used at times), all logged at least 50. And tempers flared when it was over, everyone getting a few extra words in before Game 7 on Friday.

The numbers were ridiculous: Boston shot 44 for 100, Toronto 44 for 101.

"Great basketball game," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.

Boston led 52-48 at the break, after both teams had no shortage of offensive struggles in the opening half. Toronto started 9 for 32 from the floor, then finished the half on a 9-for-15 spurt to build some momentum.

It carried over, with the Raptors taking their first lead of the second half on a six-point possession from VanVleet.

He was flagrantly fouled when Smart closed out too aggressively as he tried to land on a 3-point try, made all three foul shots, then connected on a 3 when the possession continued. He then got another 3 on the next Toronto trip down the floor, giving him a personal 9-0 run that took all of 38 seconds, and the Raptors were suddenly up 67-62.

With that, it became a chess match. The Raptors didn't score a single point in the final 4:24 of regulation. Boston led by three in the first overtime, four after back-to-back baskets to open the second OT—but couldn't finish the champs off.

Clippers 96, Nuggets 85

Kawhi Leonard finished an assist shy of his first playoff triple-double and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Denver in Game 4 to move a step closer to their first Western Conference finals.

Leonard filled up the stat sheet with 30 points, 11 rebounds, four steals and two blocked shots. He has scored 30 or more points six times during this postseason.

Reserve Montrezl Harrell added 15 points to help the Clippers take a 3-1 lead. They can close out the Nuggets on Friday night.

After building an 18-point lead in the second quarter, Los Angeles saw Denver storm back and tie it at 48 early in the third. The Clippers responded with a 21-5 run to gain some separation.

Nikola Jokic had 26 points and 11 boards for a Nuggets team that finds itself in an all-too-familiar situation. They were down in their first-round series against Utah before becoming the 12th team in NBA history to overcome a 3-1 deficit.

Los Angeles relied on stellar defense, holding Denver to 39.7% shooting and forcing three shot-clock violations. The Nuggets never led in the game.

One of the leaders of the defensive charge was Paul George, who helped hold Jamal Murray to 6-of-15 shooting and 18 points. George scored 10 points in nearly 27 minutes as he dealt with foul trouble.

Nash eager to get started on new career as Nets coach

NEW YORK (AP)—Steve Nash was a leader, a guy who loved to get the best out of his teammates on the court and build relationships with them off it.

Those qualities helped him become a Hall of Fame player.

Now he thinks they can make him a successful coach.

Nash was introduced Wednesday by the Brooklyn Nets, who picked him to guide Kevin Durant, Kyrie Irving and the rest of a team with high expectations despite him having no coaching experience.

"I love to compete. I love to teach, to lead and to be a part of a team. And so to be in a position where I can use all those things on a day-to-day basis and focus all my energy on those tenets is a perfect fit," Nash said.

"So while I hadn't necessarily publicly stated my desire to coach, privately it's always been in my mind, it's always been an opportunity that suited me. When you can't run up and down the court anymore, what can you do? What can you contribute?"

The Nets believe there is plenty. General manager Sean Marks played with Nash in Phoenix, when the Suns helped usher in an exciting era of high-scoring basketball, and knows how his fearlessness can galvanize an organization.

"Look, there's nobody that I've been around that hasn't wanted to be pressure tested on the spot quite like Steve. He's never shied away from a moment," Marks said.

"This guy has never run from anything and he wants the ball in his hands at the end of games and his career spoke for itself. He made the right decision more times than not, so the experience that he'll bring here speaks volumes."

The two struck up a friendship off the court, talking about life outside of basketball. When Marks was looking for a coach this summer, Nash called and asked if this was the time for him to pursue it.

The hiring was a surprise, with Nash apparently not telling many of his friends within the league of his interest in coaching. And it led to some criticism that he got a coveted opportunity at the top without having to work his way up from the bottom.

"Well, I did skip the line, frankly, but at the same time I think leading an NBA team for almost two decades is pretty unique," Nash said. "So while I haven't necessarily learned some of the skills that I'll definitely seek to understand and learn as far as the technical aspects of coaching, I was never far from that."

Draft delayed

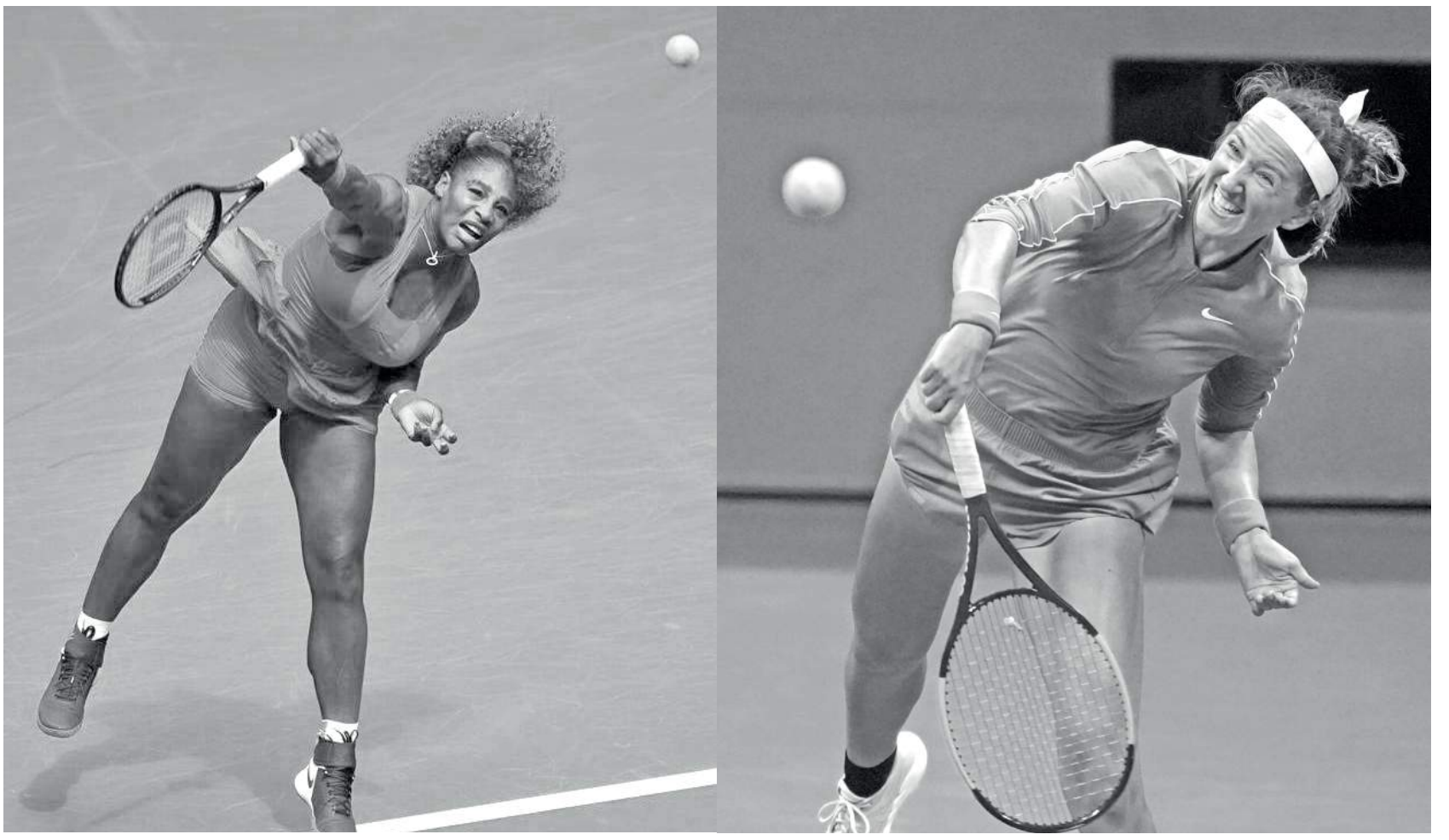
The NBA's board of governors and general managers will discuss a plan later this week to push the NBA draft back to Nov. 18, according to a memo sent to teams Wednesday.

The league told teams that the Nov. 18 date is based on "initial conversations with the Players Association." The board of governors and general managers have meetings scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

If it is moved this would be the second time that the draft—originally set for June 25, then pushed back to Oct. 16—gets delayed. An additional delay would also allow the league more time to conduct the pre-draft process, including a combine in some form, teams were told in the memo.

The league also said delaying the draft would allow it more time to continue the process of deciding when best to start next season.

Battle of moms Part 2: Serena vs Azarenka



AP

United States' Serena Williams, left, will play Belarus' Victoria Azarenka in the semifinals after beating Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—They were just two particular points from Serena Williams' latest three-set comeback at the U.S. Open, yet they were pivotal and consisted of the sorts of lengthy exchanges filled with athleticism and brilliance that in any other, non-pandemic year would be marked by thousands of folks rising to their feet for delirious roars and raucous applause.

She needed both of these points, one of which included a shot she hit left-handed, to reverse a deficit that reached the scale of a set and a break after 45 minutes of her quarterfinal against Tsvetana Pironkova on a cloudy Wednesday in empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Williams needed both of these points during a five-game, match-altering run—along with 20 aces, her most in a match in eight years—to end up on the right side of a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 score after more than two hours to get to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows for an 11th consecutive appearance.

"It's not how you start, it's how you finish, right?" Williams said.

Two more victories would allow her to claim a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title.

"In the beginning, I was a little fatigued, for whatever reason," Williams said. "Obviously, I can't do that if I want to keep winning, so I need to figure that out."

How big an upset would this have been if Pironkova had held on? Not only is she not seeded at Flushing Meadows, she doesn't even appear in the WTA rankings at all—this was her first tournament of any sort in more than three years, because she left the tour to become a mother.

"It's unbelievable," Williams said about Pironkova's impressive return to competition. "Wow. I couldn't even do that."

When the players stepped out onto the court, the stadium announcer—announcing for whom, exactly, was something of a mystery—referred to Pironkova, a 32-year-old from Bulgaria, as "Alexander's mom" and then to Williams as "Olympia's mom" during the pre-match introductions.

"It just shows me how tough moms are," Williams said afterward.

The American, who turns 39 in less than three weeks, has won six U.S. Open championships; she was the runner-up the past two years.

Williams last lost before the semifinals in New York in 2007, when Justine Henin eliminated her in the quarterfinals.

On Thursday, Williams will face Victoria Azarenka, who returned to the U.S. Open semifinals for the first time since 2013 by overwhelming Elise Mertens 6-1, 6-0 on Wednesday night. Williams leads her head-to-head series against Azarenka 18-4, including beating her in the 2012 and 2013 finals in New York.

It was in a 2012 match against Azarenka at Wimbledon that Williams last topped 20 aces, producing 24. Both Azarenka and Williams are looking to win their first Slam since becoming mothers.

The other women's semifinal Thursday will be 2018 champion Naomi Osaka vs. No. 28 seed Jennifer Brady.

In the men's quarterfinals Wednesday, 2019 runner-up Daniil Medvedev beat No. 10 Andrey Rublev 7-6 (6), 6-3, 7-6 (5) to return to the final four. Medvedev hasn't dropped a set in the tournament and will face second-seeded Dominic Thiem. Thiem advanced to the semifinals with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win over Alex de Minaur.

None of the remaining men has won a Grand Slam title, and they all have their best chance with Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic not in the field. Nadal and Federer did not play and Djokovic, the top seed, was kicked out of the U.S. Open for accidentally hitting a line judge in the throat with a tennis ball.

Brady looks at new challenge believing Bucs have edge

TAMPA BAY (AP)—As if there aren't enough challenges for a 43-year-old quarterback in the NFL, Tom Brady recognizes the uniqueness of 2020.

He's switched teams for the first time in a two-decades-long career, and during the pandemic has had less on-field work with his new teammates in Tampa Bay than he normally got in a couple of weeks with the Patriots.

Brady suggests, though, that the Buccaneers could have an edge as the season opens with lofty expectations in Tampa.

"It's obviously been a different training camp with the amount of time that we've practiced against one another," he said, "but they have a great group of core leaders, a great group of veteran players that play with great dependability and consistency. And they have a lot of young players that really want to make a name for themselves.

"So I've really liked the way that we've performed the last six weeks as a team, and now we get a chance to come together as an entire team—offense, defense and special teams—and see what we can make of this season."

Expectations are through the roof in Tampa, which has not been in the playoffs since 2007, the second-longest current drought in the NFL behind Cleveland. Brady has been in the postseason every year except three in his career—2000 as a rookie and non-starter; 2002; and 2008 when he injured his knee in Week 1.

So the goals always are higher for Brady—like a certain game played in early February each year. Still, he knows how unusual this season has been and will continue to be.

"Sports challenge you in many different ways," he said. "It's the beginning of the season and we haven't had the live reps that we typically would have had at this point, so all of us are trying to establish a role—and we've got to do it at a very high level. Certainly to go against the Saints in Week 1 is a big challenge, but we'll be ready for the challenge."

Quite a challenge, perhaps bigger than any Brady has faced since becoming a champion. He's no longer in his prime, he joins a perennially underachieving franchise, and the pandemic has not done anything to ease the transition.

"It hasn't been a typical offseason, so it's been a different type of process," he admitted. "The preseason was different, but really I've just tried to focus on each day -learning and improving, getting better each day, and not looking past the moment. Whether that was working out in the offseason or a day of training camp, it's really been a focus on the day-to-day moments and trying to, again, learn from my teammates, prepare my body mentally and physically, and continue to get acclimated to the area and the processes that it takes to win."

Saints defense expects surprises

Saints cornerback Marshon Lattimore suspects he and his defensive teammates are in for some surprises against Brady and the new-look Buccaneers.

Normally, division rivals are relatively familiar with one another. But there is no game video showing how ex-Patriots star Brady, unretired tight end Rob Gronkowski and newly acquired running back Leonard Fournette fit into Bucs coach Bruce Arians' offensive system.

The coronavirus pandemic wiped out the preseason schedule and now comes the regular-season opener on Sunday, when the Saints will field the very first defense to test Tampa Bay's revamped attack.

"We just know it's Tom Brady," Lattimore said. "He's going to have something that we haven't seen from Tampa Bay.

"We've just got to be prepared and got to be ready for anything," Lattimore added. "We just don't know. We just go out there and play, and when we see it, we've got to play it well."

In recent years, the Saints defense approached a clash with the Bucs looking to limit Jameis Winston's ability to get the ball to receivers Mike Evans and Chris Godwin, or tight ends O.J. Howard and Cameron Brate.

Evans, Godwin, Howard and Brate are all still with the Bucs, but their chemistry with Brady is bound to be different than with Winston, who is now a Saints reserve.

And it's not clear how much the Saints will see of Evans, who missed practice this week with a sore hamstring, or Brate, who is now a reserve behind Gronkowski.

Fournette, meanwhile, is not only a physical runner, but also gives Brady an option for short passes out of the backfield.

"He's a big, strong back that can really catch," Arians said. "He can do everything. He can protect, he's a big third-down back and he's been a solid guy in the league. It just gives us another weapon."

Fellow reserve running back LeSean McCoy provides yet another option in the short passing game—something Brady mixed in effectively while with New England.

"The more playmakers a team has, the harder it is to play against them," Saints linebacker Alez Anzalone said. "And what those guys have done in the past speaks for itself. We'll be ready, but they're great players."

Ronald Jones II is Tampa Bay's projected starting running back and Arians could throw in yet another new wrinkle if he believes rookie running back Ke'Shawn Vaughn, a third-round draft choice, is ready to contribute.

"We don't really know what to expect," Anzelone said. "There's some gray area. ... We just got to be ready to adjust on the go."

Braves break NL record for runs, hammer Marlins

ATLANTA (AP) — Adam Duvall drove in nine runs with three homers, including a grand slam, and the Atlanta Braves set a National League scoring record while obliterating their franchise mark in a 29-9 romp over the Miami Marlins on Wednesday night.

Atlanta broke loose for 11 runs in the second inning and nearly matched the modern scoring mark since 1900, set by the Texas Rangers in a 30-3 rout of Baltimore in 2007.

The Braves had 23 hits, including seven homers, to score the most runs in their history in Boston, Milwaukee and Atlanta. They topped their old record by six runs.

The outburst came a day after the Braves were shut out by the Marlins on four hits. Freddie Freeman drove in six runs with three hits, including a two-run homer.

Duvall hit one of the team's three homers during an 11-run second inning, knocking Pablo Lopez (3-4) out of the game. Duvall hit another homer, his 12th, in a six-run fifth and added the slam in the seventh off Josh Smith.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 2

Deivi Garcia earned his first major league win, Gleyber Torres drove in four runs and the New York Yankees snapped a five-game losing streak, beating the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Yankees had lost 15 of 20 and fallen to the edge of the expanded playoff field. General manager Brian Cashman had made a rare road trip to talk to the team before Tuesday night's loss.

Padres 5, Rockies 3

Zach Davies won his career-best fifth consecutive start and Mitch Moreland hit his first homer for the Padres as San Diego beat Colorado.

Davies (7-2) was fantastic after allowing a run in the first. He tied a season high with eight strikeouts, plowing through the Rockies with his changeup and splitter. He gave up three runs and five hits with two walks over six innings.

AP

Atlanta Braves center fielder Ender Inciarte reaches for the ball hit by Miami Marlins' Corey Dickerson during the third inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020, in Atlanta.

Mets 7, Orioles 6

Pete Alonso hit his second dramatic homer in a week Wednesday night, when his shot to center field leading off the eighth inning lifted the Mets to a win over the Orioles.

Andres Gimenez homered in the bottom of the inning to tie the score before Alonso, who had two singles in his first three at-bats, homered off Hunter Harvey (0-1).

White Sox 8, Pirates 1

James McCann went deep twice for the first multi-homer game of his seven-year career as the White Sox rolled past the Pirates.

McCann's fourth home run of the season landed in the grass beyond the center-field wall leading off the third.

Royals 3, Indians 0

Danny Duffy pitched four-hit ball into the sixth inning and snapped a winless streak of nearly six years in Cleveland as the Royals beat the Indians.

Adalberto Mondesi had an RBI single in the sixth and Edward Olivares and Nicky Lopez drove in runs in the ninth.

Brewers 19, Tigers 0

Corbin Burnes allowed one hit in seven innings in another outstanding performance, and the Brewers slugged their way to their highest run total in over a decade, beating the Tigers.

Jedd Gyorko homered twice, and Jacob Nottingham, Ryan Braun and Tyrone Taylor also went deep for the Brewers.

Reds 3, Cubs 0

Trevor Bauer tossed three-hit ball into the eighth inning to outpitch Cubs ace Yu Darvish and lift the Reds.

Mike Moustakas hit a three-run homer in the first inning as Darvish's seven-start winning streak was snapped.

Rangers 7, Angels 3

Isiah Kiner-Falefa matched a career high with four hits, Nick Solak drove in a pair of runs and the Rangers have won consecutive games for only the third time this season, beating the Angels.

The Rangers had lost six in row, and 18 of 21, before winning the series opener Tuesday.

Athletics 3, Astros 2

Ramon Laureano, suspended last month for charging the Houston dugout and triggering a bench-clearing brawl, hit an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning that lifted the AL West-leading Athletics over the Astros.

Laureano yelled over and over as he celebrated yet another walkoff win by the A's.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 4, 10 innings

Chris Taylor and AJ Pollock each hit a run-scoring single in the 10th inning as Los Angeles overcame a rare off night for ace Clayton Kershaw to beat Arizona.

Jake McGee (3-1) struck out two in the ninth and Taylor lined a single off Kevin Ginkel (0-2) after Corey Seager started at second base under baseball's new extra-inning rules.

Giants 10, Mariners 1

Mike Yastrzemski hit a three-run homer and San Francisco routed Seattle for its fifth straight win under skies turned orange by raging wildfires in Northern California.

Players took batting practice with the lights turned on at Oracle Park on a late-summer afternoon. Some ash flakes rained down on the ballpark and the smell of smoke was noticeable but not overpowering.

MIAMI

From Page 28

finals against the winner of the Boston Celtics-Toronto Raptors matchup.

The Greek Freak being sidelined in the final 1 1/2 games notwithstanding (some may argue the Bucks played better minus Antetokounmpo in winning Game 4 that prevented a sweep), coach Erik Spoelstra's team making cannon fodder of the league No. 1 offensive and No. 1 defensive team was still a complete stunner.

Milwaukee never really looked the same in the bubble which might as well have been quicksand for coach Mike Budenholzer's team. Everybody, however, thought that Giannis and company were just playing coy in the seeding games where they had an abysmal 3-5 record. And that's from a team that looked so formidable before the NBA was locked out by the COVID-19 pandemic that everyone and his cousin believed the Bucks were on the way to a 70-win season.

But Miami was just a different beast in the postseason this year. The Heat did play coy in the restart games before the playoffs, finishing fifth in the Eastern Conference regular season standings. It did so by design though, as coach Spoe wanted the route of least resistance as they wanted to play the Bucks in the second round, which they did when Milwaukee completed its own gentleman's sweep against the Orlando Magic.

While he resembled more of Justise Winslow to start Game 5, Jimmy Buckets did pull through in the endgame by going perfect from the free throw line. Bam Adebayo also seemed intimidated by newly minted NBA All-Defensive Second Team member Brook Lopez down low, but more than made up with it by making key baskets using his improving jumper. Goran Dragic was also too fast for his own good in the first quarter, but was a calming influence in the homestretch and hit arguably the game's biggest shot when he served as a release valve to a Butler drive with a minute and change left on the clock.

But the biggest hero—or I might say Herro—in the game was Baby Goat Tyler Herro. The rookie out of Kentucky dazzled all game long with his slick passing (did you see his no-look pass to a wide-open Andre Iguodala?) and clutch shooting (What wet-behind-the-ears rookie pulls up from 3 with the game on the line). He also had a key block on George Hill in the 5-minute mark of the game that was initially called a foul, but was reversed after coach Spoe made successful a coach's challenge. I don't care what the pundits say, I won't trade Herro even for Bradley Beal.

I also understand Milwaukee top brass opting to put Giannis in bubble wrap rather than risk further injury to easily one of the NBA's Top 3 players. We all know what happened to Grant Hill. The former Duke star was on his way to becoming the next Michael Jordan when he injured his ankle late in the 2000 regular season playing for Detroit. The Pistons were fighting for playoff position and Hill, who was a free agent-in waiting, didn't want criticism that he was going soft coming into his big payday the next season. The 6'8" do-it-all forward played through pain in the first-round playoff series against, coincidentally, the Miami Heat. He probably made the injury worse by playing in the postseason that year and after signing with the Orlando Magic the following season, Hill would be a shell of himself and denied the NBA what could've been one of the most transcendent players of his generation.

So, the Heat now await the beaten carcass of whoever emerges in the other Eastern Conference semifinal between the Boston Celtics and the Toronto Raptors. The defending champions showed a lot of heart yesterday when they overcame an anemic last 4 minutes of regulation to force overtime and then matched Boston shot per shot in the two extensions. I was beside myself when reserve Norman Powell took the last shot in the first OT for Toronto, but The General redeemed himself in the second overtime by hitting a big 3 and committing grand larceny on a steal against Jayson Tatum and an and-1 over Marcus Smart the other way that all but sealed it for the Raps.

My wish is that the Celts and Raps play through 20 overtimes in the deciding Game 7 so they'll be all tuckered out and drained when they do face the Miami Stun Machine in the Eastern Conference finals. In the immortal words of Gloria Estefan "…let your body (or in this case the Raptors or Celtics) feel the Heat…"

COVID-19

From Page 28

UFC officials with no choice but to call off Camacho's duel against Weaver.

"It's a bummer. At first I thought it was the Vegas heat and dry plus the fires in California that had me having a little sore throat, but it's COVID. I am doing everything to combat this," said Camacho, who thanked people back in Guam and on Saipan for sending their thoughts and prayers and encouraged them to be vigilant as well as we all battle the virus.

"I urge everyone back home to have their bodies in the best possible condition to fight this virus," Camacho said.

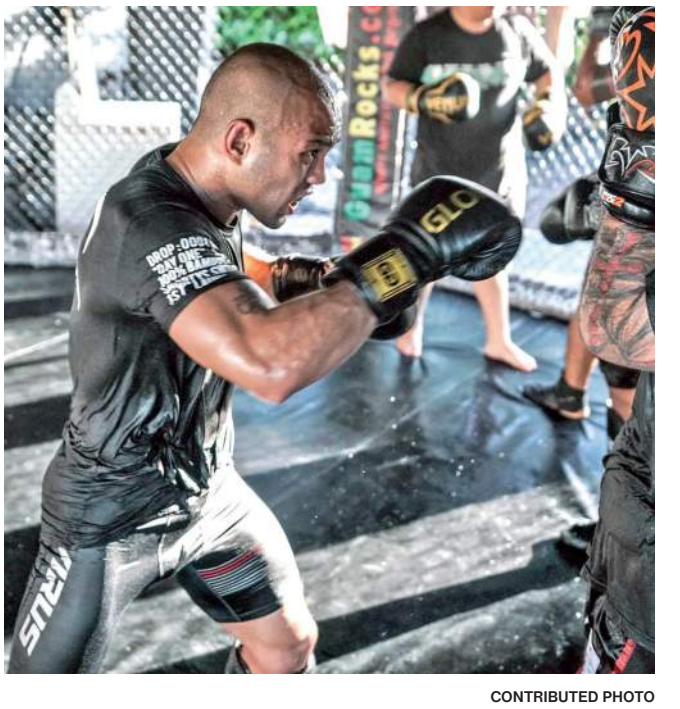
The 31-year-old athlete is scheduled to return to California where he will be isolated as he works on his recovery. The rest of Team Oyama, cornermen and other fighters, will remain in Las Vegas, as they all tested negative.

"The UFC said after 10 days and I get negative tests, they'll rebook me ASAP. Now, I have an opportunity to get two wins. One versus COVID and the other against a new UFC opponent," Camacho said.

The match against Weaver would have been Camacho's last in his second contract with UFC and he is looking at bouncing back from an early loss to Justin Jaynes in the UFC Fight Night 173, also in Las Vegas, last June. Jaynes was a last-minute replacement for Camacho's original foe, Matt Frevola, who, incidentally, was pulled out from fight card after his cornerman tested positive for COVID-19. Frevola will return to the octagon cage in the same event where Camacho was supposed to compete, as the former will face Roosevelt Roberts, who defeated Weaver in their May bout this year.

"It's difficult to be in this situation, especially I am away from home and have been working so hard to prepare for this fight, but I have to keep that positive mindset and consider this as another curveball thrown at me," Camacho said.

"I have another fight that just came up. It's against COVID. Round 1, let's go!"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho trains at Team Oyama in Irvine, California late last month for his Sept. 12 bout against Brok "Chata Tuska" Weaver in the UFC Fight Night 177.

Raptors survive Celtics in 2OT, force Game 7

PAGE

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Battle of moms Part 2: Serena vs Azarenka

PAGE 25

‘The Crank’ battles COVID-19

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The warrior in MMA fighter Frank “The Crank” Camacho will be tested in the coming weeks, as he faces a different battle this time—against the COVID-19 virus.

Camacho confirmed he tested positive for the coronavirus after arriving in Las Vegas last Wednesday (Saipan time) for his Sept. 12 bout against Brok “Chata Tuska” Weaver in the UFC Fight Night 177.

“I was pulled out from the fight. I tested positive but no real heavy symptoms. Little sore throat, and little runny nose. I’m sure it’s because I’m always hydrating with water, taking my vitamins, eating healthy food, getting good rest, and most importantly having a positive outlook on everything,” said Camacho.

The Marianas fighter, who tested negative when he left Guam late last month and a week before in Irvine, California while in a training camp with Team Oyama, got tested twice at the hotel where Ultimate Fighting Championship has its fighters billeted and received the bad news yesterday morning, leaving

See COVID-19 on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank “The Crank” Camacho has been pulled out from the fight card in the UFC Fight Night 177 after testing positive for COVID-19.

Miami Stun Machine

I predicted a gentleman’s sweep for the Miami Heat, albeit in its first round series against the hobbled Indiana Pacers. Jimmy Buckets and company did better than my prognosticating pie hole by eliminating the Hoosiers in four games.

It was in their second round series against the top seeded Milwaukee Bucks that the Heaters completed the gentleman’s sweep. Given that presumptive two-time MVP and 2020 Defensive Player of the Year Giannis Antetokounmpo didn’t see a second of court time in Game 5, a win is still a win for Miami and it advanced to the Eastern Conference

See MIAMI on Page 27

MARKSMAN

By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn’t measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

AP
Miami Heat’s Tyler Herro looks to pass past Milwaukee Bucks’ Brook Lopez (11) and Donte DiVincenzo during the first half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff game Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.